

Twelve US marines killed as Saddam sends tanks and ships to capture Saudi town

## Hundreds of Iraqis die in land battle

By MICHAEL EVANS, CHRISTOPHER WALKER in DHAHRAN AND JAMIE DETTMER ON BOARD HMS LONDON

HUNDREDS of Iraqis were reported killed in the first real land battle of the Gulf war yesterday. Twelve American marines were also said to have died in the fighting after the Iraqis launched a combined naval and ground operation apparently designed to capture a Saudi border town.

In the 12-hour sea battle, allied forces sank or set ablaze 17 Iraqi fast patrol boats. Iraq also began pumping oil into the Gulf from another terminal, at Mina al-Bakr, creating a second slick of thousands of barrels of oil.

British military sources said the raids could be a signal that Iraq intended to mount a major offensive instead of remaining in defensive positions, waiting for the allies to attack. The assaults were a way of probing allied positions and testing their response.

The combined Iraqi operation began at sea at 6pm on Tuesday, when 17 patrol and assault craft, armed with rocket launchers and machine-guns and travelling at about 60 knots, headed south down the Gulf towards the border town of Khafji. They were spotted by helicopters from British and American warships on "picket duty" in the north of the Gulf. Royal Navy Lynx helicopters, Saudi helicopters and allied aircraft attacked the boats, sinking five and damaging 12. All the boats were carrying troops, a total of about 100-200 soldiers.

The first ground assault started at 7.25pm on Tuesday when 50 tanks, mostly old Soviet T55s, came through a gap in the Iraqi defensive line, west of Khafji and headed south, according to British sources. They were engaged by "allied forces" and about 13 of the tanks were destroyed. The Iraqis turned east and then back across the border after two hours.

The second raid started 35 minutes later when "disoriented Iraqi infantry" crossed the border further to the east, followed by 16 armoured

personnel carriers. "They came into contact with Saudi National Guard units," the British sources said. The engagement, which lasted for three hours, included artillery fire.

The third assault, at 9.05pm, was aimed directly at Khafji. A full mechanised battalion, consisting of 15 T55 tanks, 10 armoured personnel carriers and about 500 men, appeared north of Khafji and were engaged by US marines and Saudi forces. The mechanised battalion was joined by an infantry battalion with 35 armoured personnel carriers at 2.15am yesterday.

British sources said the Saudis eventually "disengaged" and the Iraqis pressed on into the outskirts of the town. The fighting continued between the US marines and the Iraqis for many hours. However the Iraqis were said to be "boxed in".

Another incursion was launched by the Iraqis much further west, close to the Kuwait-Iraqi border. At 11.15pm on Tuesday, an Iraqi company with four tanks crossed the border but there was no engagement and they went away again.

The fighting at Khafji, a ghost town deserted by its 14,000 Saudi inhabitants in the early days of the war, was described as "hellacious" by Lieutenant-Colonel Cliff Myers of the US Marines. The American victims were the first allied servicemen to die in ground fighting and the Iraqis were said to have suffered heavy losses of men and equipment. British government and American military sources said that could mean hundreds of dead.

Baghdad Radio said Iraqi troops had staged a lightning strike into "the kingdom of evil or Saudi Arabia" and that they had routed allied forces along a broad front. "The forces of Saddam Hussein are wiping out the renegade invaders and knocking out the forces of infidelity, corruption and treason."

The Mother of Battles radio station said that Saddam, the Revolutionary Command Council and military commanders planned the attack last Saturday. Saddam visited the troops in Basra on Sunday and issued orders for the plan to field commanders. Iraq said in a communiqué yesterday that its advance should not be taken as an attempt to invade Saudi Arabia.

The Iraqi armoured column was said to have used a classic ruse by making its initial advance with tank gun turrets



Frontline town: a Saudi tank at the entrance to Khafji as smoke rises from a destroyed Iraqi armoured vehicle after yesterday's battle between Iraqi invaders and the allies

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reversed, an internationally-accepted sign of impending surrender. After a night of fighting, Saudi forces reported suddenly at 11.45am that a new column of 80 Iraqi armoured vehicles and around 4,000 men was approaching Khafji. Barely ten minutes after Marine Major Craig Huddleston had been told that the Iraqis wanted to surrender, and apparently were not "indicating any hostile intention", he declared: "They have now engaged the Saudi forces in combat and we are going to kill them." Soon after that, giant US 155mm Howitzer guns opened up with a repeated series of thunderous salvos towards the battle zone.

By 6pm, a Saudi military spokesman was claiming that "the situation is under the coalition forces control".

Allied success in the war at sea continued when British and American helicopters and fighter-bombers sank or set alight some 17 Iraqi missile-

carrying patrol boats. Senior British naval officers were jubilant, saying that a significant blow had been dealt to the Iraqi navy. "I believe we may have passed a watershed in the coastal phase of the maritime war," Commodore Christopher Craig, officer commanding British naval forces in the Gulf, said.

Allied naval air arms have mounted several missions to look for the Iraqi fast patrol boats in the past week. In particular, they have been keen to discover the locations of Osa class boats and the six TNC45s captured by Iraq during the August invasion. TNC45s are capable of 41 knots.

At the height of yesterday's clash, Commodore Craig praised his Lynx pilots. "We have a major engagement in train. At its heart are Royal Navy helicopters. We are neutralising several of the Iraqi navy's prime attack vessels." The allies suffered no

Continued on page 22, col 5

### Splits in American policy on Gulf

From PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

THE first splits in the Bush administration's Gulf policy appeared yesterday as White House officials attacked the joint American-Soviet statement, signed by the secretary of state, James Baker, which offered President Saddam Hussein a chance of an end to the war in exchange for a commitment to leave Kuwait.

The presidential spokesman, Martin Fitzwater, called it "regrettable" that anyone had "misinterpreted" the statement, signed on Tuesday night by Mr Baker and the Soviet foreign minister, Alexander Bessmertnykh, to suggest a softening condition for a Gulf ceasefire.

Other officials at the White House and the Pentagon were more frank, accusing the State Department of "blindsiding" other departments by a statement which was issued just before the President's State of the Union speech and which contrasted with its tough rhetoric. President Bush was not consulted about the wording of the statement, officials said.

The Israeli government also protested at the statement which looked forward to joint American-Soviet action for a "meaningful peace process" between Arabs and Israel once the war was over.

The State Department told the White House, Mr Fitzwater said, that its aim had been to put out a statement expressing the determination of both America and the Soviet Union that Iraq was not to be demolished in the war.

Not offended: Douglas Hogg, the foreign minister, denied yesterday that the American-Soviet proposal to Saddam amounted to a "peace initiative" or that the British government was offended at the lack of consultation (Sheila Gunn, Political Correspondent, writes).

### Confident Schwarzkopf says allies 'on schedule'

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

GENERAL Norman Schwarzkopf, the American commander of Operation Desert Storm, claimed yesterday that the campaign to oust Iraqi troops from Kuwait was on schedule "by every measure". In the most comprehensive assessment so far, he disclosed the first impressive results of the massive air offensive of the past two weeks.

He said: "There's no way I am suggesting the Iraqi army is close to capitulation. But I am confident that the direction we are heading in is going to lead to the outcome we all want to see."

On Monday, he said, allied planes had hit the largest Iraqi ammunition dump in Kuwait, causing an explosion bigger than a volcano. He explained: "If, on a scale of one to ten, the eruption of a volcano registers ten... this registered a 12."

He said American B-52 bombers were dropping more than 400 tons of explosive a day on the elite Republican Guard divisions in or near Kuwait. In a 15-hour period on Tuesday 178 trucks, 55 artillery pieces and 52 tanks were destroyed or damaged.

General Schwarzkopf said 33 of the 36 principal bridges used for supplying Kuwait had been attacked at night. Only about 100 vehicles a day were using the main supply route compared with 1,000 previously, allowing only about 2,000 tons of supplies to reach

troops, compared with 20,000 tons before. Iraqi troops in Kuwait were now begging for food, surviving on a bowl of rice or beans a day, and had no water for washing.

The commander said allied planes had destroyed 60 per cent of 26 "leadership" targets. A quarter of Iraq's electrical generating facilities had been destroyed and another 50 per cent "severely degraded". Three-quarters of the enemy's command and control had been struck and a third were destroyed or inoperative. Saddam Hussein had been forced to use less effective and more vulnerable back-up systems.

The Iraqi airborne early-warning system had completely failed. The Iraqis had abandoned centralised control of their air defence system after 29 principal targets had been hit, and that accounted in part for the fact that only 19

allied aircraft had been lost in more than 30,000 sorties.

The general said 38 principal Iraqi airfields had been hit and at least nine were out of action. Seventy hardened bunkers for sheltering aircraft had been destroyed.

Iraqi aircraft were being put on roads, or hidden in residential areas, but were "running out of places to hide." He added: "The simple fact of the matter is that now every time an Iraqi aircraft takes off the ground it's running away."

Every one of 31 nuclear, biological and chemical weapons facilities had been attacked, said General Schwarzkopf. All the nuclear facilities had been destroyed and more than 11 chemical and biological storage facilities and three production facilities destroyed.

In addition, he said, 46 Iraqi ships had been sunk or disabled and 74 Iraqis captured.

### INSIDE Soviet troops 'leave Baltic'

Some Soviet forces were reported to be leaving the Baltic states yesterday. Boris Fugo, the Soviet interior minister, said that all "army paratroopers" sent to the region had been withdrawn. Page 22  
Shot youth dies, page 11  
Censor Cruise O'Brien, page 12

### Runcie farewell



Dr Robert Runcie, 102nd Archbishop of Canterbury, will retire tomorrow with tributes to a man whose humour lightened the ecclesiastical strife of the secular 1980s. Page 9  
Leading article, page 13

### Screening plea

About 1,250 women a year will be saved from death by breast cancer if they take part in a screening programme, say expert advisers. Page 7  
Health, page 17

### Pact welcomed

The peace accord between the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party was almost uniformly welcomed in South Africa. Page 10

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### Major in poll tax pledge

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major is prepared to see the poll tax review end with the abolition of the community charge and the restoration of domestic rates, in effect the policy espoused by the Labour party.

As Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, wrestles with the review of the community charge in an effort to produce preliminary conclusions in time for the local government elections in May, the prime minister was asked in an interview with *The Times* if the tax could be scrapped altogether in favour of a return to rates.

He replied: "It is a fundamental review and that means all options are open, yes." Asked specifically if the options included scrapping

the tax altogether and reintroducing rates, the prime minister replied: "Including those." Senior ministers are describing the community charge as "a boil which has to be lanced".

Mr Major strongly backed John Taylor, the black barrister whom some Conservatives in Cheltenham are seeking to have deselected at their prospective candidate.

The prime minister hinted at a cabinet reshuffle if the election is delayed until 1992. He said that he did not rule out the awarding of hereditary peerages during his time and indicated that he was ready to privatise companies owned by local authorities.

Confirming that he hoped to visit President Gorbachev

in Moscow early in March, Mr Major indicated that the trip might be called off if there was further Soviet repression in the Baltic states. He put a similar condition on future visits to the Soviet Union.

Mr Major said that the Western allies would probably maintain naval and air forces in the Gulf area after the conclusion of the war, either under United Nations control or in bilateral arrangements with Gulf states.

On the economy Mr Major said: "We have got inflation on the run, there is no doubt about that." Interest rates would come down, he said, as the inflation differential with our EC partners narrowed.

Major interview, page 12

### Gentlemen's game left battered and bruised

By SIMON WILDE

CRICKET'S reputation for gentlemanly behaviour may have suffered a terminal blow after reports from India that a player assaulted a rival with a cricket stump. The incident took place during the closing stages of a domestic final in Jharkhand in Bihar on Tuesday.

Raman Lamba, who was batting at the time, was attacked by Rashid Patel, the bowler, who was eventually restrained, after two minutes, by his team mates. The game was called off after spectators went on a rampage.

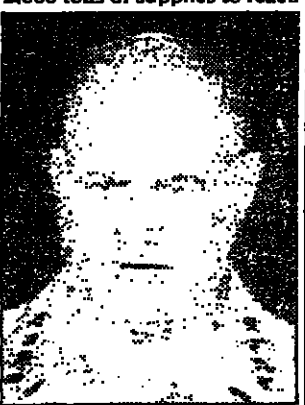
Although there is no parallel to such an event in first class cricket, a similar incident in a club match in Delhi three years ago, involving Indian Test players Manoj Prabhakar and Maninder Singh, led to both being suspended from the national side. Prabhakar had hit Maninder on the arm with his bat after

being taunted. In Test cricket, the nearest comparison is the confrontation between Jarrod Miandad, of Pakistan, and Dennis Lillee, of Australia, during a match at Perth in November 1981. Miandad, who had been obstructed and kicked by Lillee as he completed a run, had squared up to strike the bowler with his bat before umpires intervened. In 1971, John Snow was dropped by England for one match after he had barged to the ground Sumit Gavaskar, the Indian batsman, during a Test at Lord's.

Although players do not seem to have turned on each other before, they have for some years been showing their aggression towards others involved in the game. Colin Croft, the West Indies fast bowler, once shoulder charged an umpire in a Test match, while Rod McCurdy, the Australian, allegedly

kicked his manager in the dressing room on a tour of South Africa. The modern professional cricketer has perhaps suffered from inheriting a game that was long patronised by the leisured classes. Not the least of their problems is having to live up to the sort of eulogy to the game that Lord Harris penned to this newspaper almost 60 years ago. He wrote: "You do well to love it, for it is more free from anything sordid, anything dishonourable than any game in the world. To play it keenly, honourably, generously, self-sacrificingly is a moral lesson in itself, and the classroom is God's air and sunshine."

What his lordship failed to say was that once, while playing for Eton against Harrow at Lord's, he had caused a furore by running out, without warning, an opponent who was out of his ground at the non striker's end.



Confident: Schwarzkopf at yesterday's briefing

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**SECURITY**



# Why the allies must hope Saddam will not give in soon

IF PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein were clever, he would mount strikes against the allied forces to inflict as many casualties as possible, then accept the ceasefire offered by Washington, while he still retains enough of his military might to be voted the Arab world's favourite leader.

With the allies boasting that they have the freedom to pick their targets on the ground at will, after achieving air supremacy, Saddam desperately needs some notches on his gun to prove to his own people and to his supporters in the Arab world that he can cause damage, too. The Scud attacks provided him with an initial psychological boost because of the outrage they generated in Israel and in the West.

He has had no other "successes", however, and con-

ventionally armed Scuds are no longer the terror weapon they were. The Iraqi incursions across the Saudi border early yesterday morning may be the first sign of Saddam's frustration at being thwarted by the air campaign. If he still believes that he is capable of waging "the mother of all battles" in Kuwait, he will want to try to draw the allied forces into an early land attack, making them vulnerable to his concealed artillery, mortars, and anti-tank weapons.

Apart from being given a chance to inflict casualties and claim some kudos for taking on the "infidel" Americans and their allies, Saddam probably hopes that an early land war could be one way of stopping the relentless bombing of the military infrastructure he has built up so carefully over the past ten years.

If Britain and the US want to tame the Iraqi war machine, peace would deny them the simplest way of doing so, writes Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

He would judge, probably correctly, that most of the allied bombers would have to be switched to ground attack in Kuwait during a land offensive.

One way or another, he has to find a way of preserving some of his chemical weapons production plants, his airbases, the remainder of his Scud launchers, his fighter-bombers, his best troops and any other unconventional weapons programmes that have survived the laser-guided bombs because of their location deep underground. Forcing a land war would seem the only option left,

taking up the ceasefire offer when the time is right. For the allies, at least for the two members - the United States and Britain - which are clearly determined to crush the Iraqi military machine once and for all, neither a ceasefire nor a coup in Baghdad would be welcome at this stage.

Washington presumably made the gesture to appease the Russians and in the expectation that Saddam would not accept it. The "danger" of a ceasefire being demanded by the United Nations Security Council was one of the main spurs for Britain to get

quickly to grips with the Argentine troops in the Falklands in 1982. The war cabinet wanted to defeat the Argentines to demonstrate that dictators could not get away with seizing another country's territory.

The last thing the cabinet wanted was to have the British expeditionary force halted by international demands for peace. Just as President Galtieri had to be taught a lesson in 1982, so Saddam has to be defeated today.

However, there is an irony: for if the destruction of Iraq's war machine is the overarching objective, the air campaign, targeting Iraqi military facilities, is much more important than the liberation of Kuwait. The battle for Kuwait can wait until Washington and London are satisfied that Saddam's war machine has been crippled. If the land war

started tomorrow and was over quickly, allied strike aircraft could not return to bombing targets in Iraq. Once the Iraqis had surrendered in Kuwait, the war would be over. Equally, if Saddam were overthrown by rebel officers who then announced plans to withdraw from Kuwait, the allies would have to stop bombing, leaving the job "half-finished", as Tom King, the defence secretary, indicated a few days ago.

The allied air commanders still have much to do. Despite reassuring briefings from American and British commanders that Saddam's ability to fight a war is being gradually destroyed, there is still enough of the war machine left to pose a serious threat to the region, whoever is in power in Baghdad. Take the chemical weapons capability, for example.

Hundreds of raids have been mounted on the two principal sites, at Samarra and Salman Pak in central Iraq. Both have suffered considerable damage. Yet Iraq is said to have lost only half of its production capability.

Iraq's nuclear weapons development programme has supposedly been stopped by the destruction of the two known nuclear reactors. But does that mean the underground uranium-enrichment facility, which Kurdish opposition groups insist has been built in the north of Iraq, does not exist? Or, if it does, has it also been hit by allied bombers?

Dealing with Iraq's surviving chemical, biological and nuclear facilities through diplomacy and political pressure after the war would not be impossible, but more difficult and less effective than through precision bombing.

## SUPERPOWER RELATIONS

### A glimpse from the wings of backstage diplomatic theatre

From PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

WHEN Washington puts on its best political theatre, the stagehands are supposed to stay out of sight. That, at least, is the convention. The White House news managers worked hard throughout Tuesday to ensure that no scraps of the real world marred the reception for George Bush's highly-wrought State of the Union speech extolling the brutality of President Saddam Hussein, and asserting America's unique responsibility to defeat tyranny.

But just before the president began to speak - to a glittering audience of diplomats and congressmen and White House wives - reporters were given an unexpected glimpse of the messy diplomatic deal-making behind the scenes, of the concessions which may be necessary to keep an allied war effort in play but which fit uneasily with the fighting and speech-making of war itself.

A joint statement by James Baker, the secretary of state, and Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet foreign minister, signed barely a mile away from the Capitol Hill gala, gave Saddam an unexpected chance to make "an

unequivocal commitment to withdraw from Kuwait" in exchange for an end to the Gulf war.

Although the statement also said that the commitment must be backed by "immediate concrete steps leading to full compliance with the security council resolutions", its tone contrasted with the president's declaratory aims of "driving" Saddam from Kuwait, of freeing the Iraqi people from the "brutal dictator" and creating a world without tyrants.

Senior White House officials, who were briefing the press about the State of the Union address, knew nothing of this offer. Yesterday one said that they were "blindsided" by the statement - a footballing metaphor for being caught off guard. There was clear irritation with the State Department, which was not dissipated by a mumbled remark by Mr Baker about the president saying "he's never mad at me". Pentagon officials, too, expressed anger.

Not only were the White House and Pentagon unaware of the "withdrawal" offer. Neither were the president's leading officials (nor the Israeli government, which

later made a complaint) know about the next and equally contentious part of the joint statement in which the two ministers offered to work together for peace between Arabs and Israelis after the war had ended. "Mutual US-Soviet efforts to promote Arab-Israeli peace and regional stability, in consultation with other parties in the region, will be greatly facilitated and enhanced," they said.

Mr Bessmertnykh, who was briefing the press alone about the statement (Mr Baker having to change his clothes for the Capitol Hill party) denied that this was "linkage" between the two issues. But, Israeli sources were immediately nervous. "I think this is an important statement because the two sides have not made a joint statement on this subject for many years," Mr Bessmertnykh said. There was no argument about that - only about what the statement meant and whether it might have been delivered in a different way.

Western diplomatic sources reacted cautiously. The British ambassador, Sir Antony Acland, said that the offer to end the war contained nothing new. It had always been understood that, if Saddam were to commit himself to withdrawal and follow that commitment with clear action, the position would be different, he said. The White House spokesman, Martin Fitzwater, also denied that there had been any change in American policy and offered talks with any ally who might be worried about the "misinterpretation".

Official reassurance could not hide, however, the importance of appearance and timing in the great world theatre whose stage now stretches from San Francisco Bay to Basra.



Mrs Schwarzkopf, applauded on Capitol Hill

### Soviet fears led to call for end of war

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

BEFORE leaving Washington, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet foreign minister, was party to a joint statement that will be greeted in Moscow as a small but significant consolation for the postponed summit.

A key sentence said that if Iraq gave an "unequivocal commitment to withdraw from Kuwait, then a cessation of hostilities would be possible". The two sides also believe, it went on, "that such a commitment must be backed by immediate, concrete steps leading to full compliance with the security council resolutions".

The first sentence, it is not hard to deduce, was demanded by a Soviet leadership increasingly worried by the course of the Gulf war. The second was a condition set by the United States, concerned that Moscow's moral support for the international alliance might be flagging. That such a transparent diplomatic formula was necessary at all suggests that the Soviet side gained the American concession only after some hard bargaining.

Circumstantial evidence supports such a view. The wording of the crucial sentence is almost identical to that of President Gorbachev's second and most recent message to the Iraqi leader, dispatched the day after the outbreak of war. An earlier message, delivered by the Soviet ambassador to the Iraqi foreign minister as the first bombs hit Baghdad, demanded an immediate withdrawal from Kuwait. The second, as reported by the Soviet foreign ministry, called on Iraq to declare its intention of leaving Kuwait. The difference is small, but could prove vital.

Further evidence of friction between the Soviet and American leaders can be divined from official Soviet statements. Answering a single written question at his press conference last week, President Gorbachev said that the present Soviet position of support for the alliance, might have to be reviewed if the war entered a second and more serious phase and the toll of American and Iraqi dead became too high.

Those sentiments were echoed by the Soviet foreign minister as he left for Washington on Saturday, except that he appeared to believe that the second phase had already arrived. Mr Bessmertnykh told journalists at Moscow's special airport for Soviet dignitaries that there was a growing threat

that "very grave damage" would be inflicted on Iraq. He indicated that he would want an assurance from Washington that the war was designed to liberate Kuwait, not to destroy Iraq. The latter, Moscow clearly believes, exceeds the remit of the United Nations resolution that sanctioned the use of force.

While Soviet concern about the course of the war and the growing number of casualties is undoubtedly genuine and is reflected in increasingly critical coverage from the official Soviet press, Moscow's desire to see an early cessation of hostilities might stem from an even greater concern about the aftermath of the war.

From the first days of the war, Soviet leaders seem to have been worried that too decisive an allied victory in the Gulf could have the effect of excluding the Soviet Union from the region altogether. If Iraq and the present Iraqi regime were to be "destroyed", then Moscow fears not only could American influence in the region be greatly enhanced, but Soviet protection and the Soviet position as self-appointed intermediary would be seen to be worthless.

## Familiar tone to Saddam's ominous threats

By EFRAIM KARSH

IN HIS first interview with a Western journalist since the war began, President Saddam Hussein told CNN correspondent Peter Arnett that Iraq had the capability to fix nuclear, chemical and biological warheads to its Scud missiles and vowed to escalate the conflict if he had to. "I pray to God I will not be forced to use these weapons," he said, "but I will not hesitate to do so should the need arise."

Even though it is not at all clear whether the Iraqis have succeeded in marrying chemical warheads to their missiles and although Iraq still seems to be at a safe distance from acquiring a nuclear capability, these threats should not be taken lightly. Not only do they add up to a series of indications of Saddam's growing anxiety (such as the dispatch of Iraqi aircraft to Iran and the creation of the worst-ever oil-related ecological disaster), but they ring familiar and ominous bells from the Iran-Iraq war.

During that war Saddam indicated that he was willing to use chemical weapons whenever he deemed it necessary and that he had no moral qualms whatsoever about doing so. His only inhibitions in this regard were purely practical and were

related to the possible contribution of this means to his military position at the time. As long as he was not in a desperate position, Saddam proved himself a rational and circumspect actor: he used gas against Iranians only after continuous and persistent warnings and only at critical moments, when there was no other way to check Iranian offensives. The only time he resorted to an indiscriminate use of this weapon was the appalling gassing of his own Kurdish population, where the danger of retaliation was almost nil.

This pattern seems to be repeating itself in the second Gulf war. From the early stages of the confrontation Saddam had threatened to attack Israel in the event of a general conflagration, and he made good his promise.

Assuming that he has the capability to deliver chemical ordinance by his missiles (an assumption that has yet to be validated), his decision to forego this option thus far seems to have reflected his belief that conventional warheads would suffice to trigger an Israeli retaliation, without driving it into an excessive response.

He was fully justified in making this assumption. Prior to the war, Israel had

gone to great lengths to emphasise that any Iraqi attack would be responded in kind. Saddam had no reason to suspect that it would react differently in this case, particularly in view of Israel's longstanding propensity to retaliate against any attack.

Conversely, the fear of a harsh response to a chemical attack was well taken. The months preceding the war had been ripe with speculations in the Israeli and Western press regarding the possibility of an Israeli tactical retaliation against an Iraqi chemical attack.

As things turned out, Israel failed to play the role assigned to her by Saddam by exercising extraordinary restraint. This, in turn, might have driven the Iraqi leader to the conclusion that the only way to drag Israel into the conflict was to escalate his attacks to a higher qualitative level.

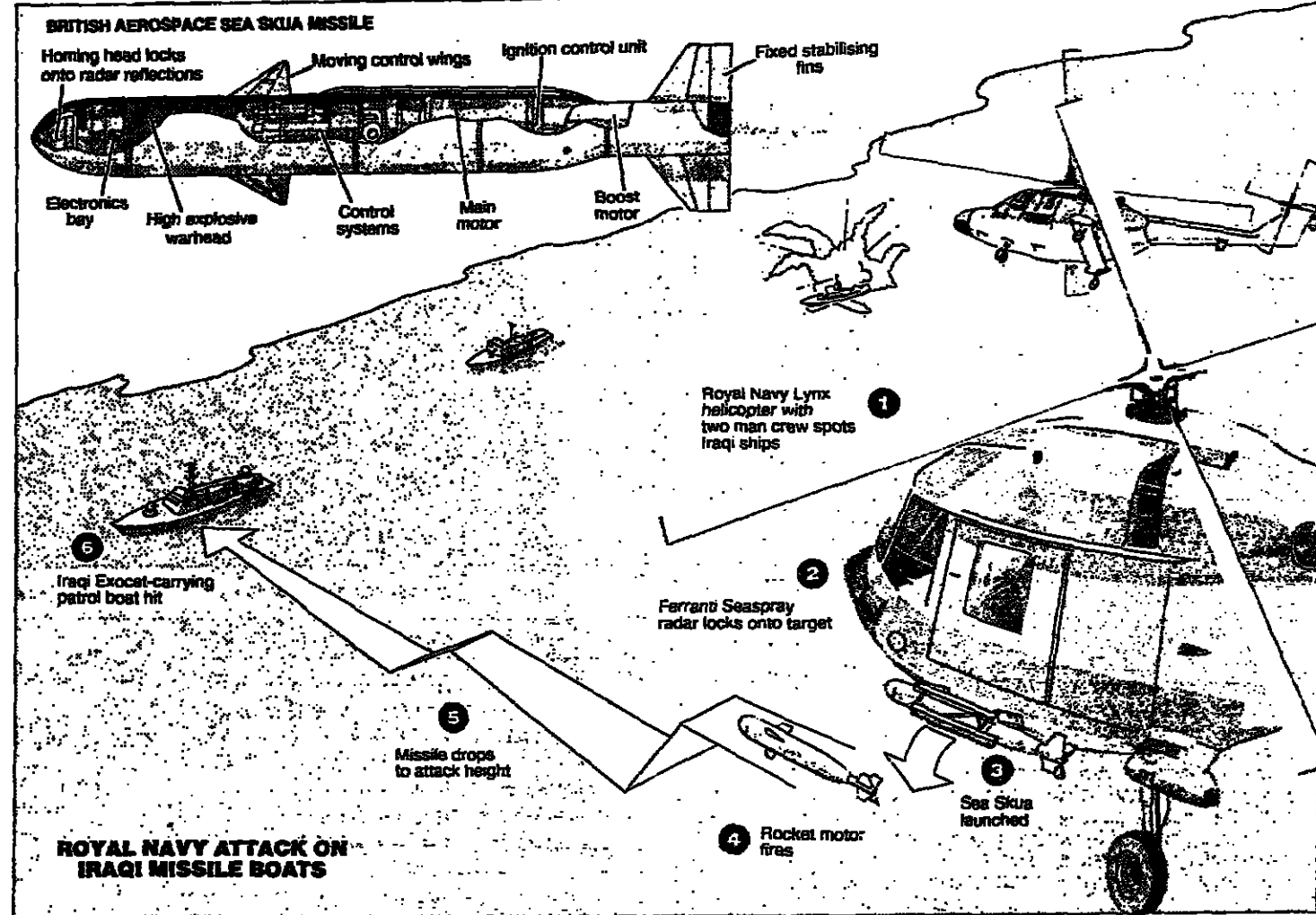
At the same time, Israel's restraint must have convinced Saddam that her response to a chemical attack might not be as harsh as originally feared. Hence, just as Iraq's resort to chemical attacks in the first Gulf war had been preceded by persistent cautions to the Iranians to desist from their military pressure, so Saddam's present warning to the coalition may well

foreshadow a chemical attack against Israel.

In drawing Israel into the war, Saddam not only hopes to fracture the coalition by putting its Arab members in an awkward position. He also seeks to drag the allies, who fear an Arab-Israeli conflagration, into a premature ground offensive in Kuwait. Notwithstanding his fiery rhetoric about "the mother of all battles", Saddam has been fully aware that his ability to sustain a protracted conflict is by no means limitless. He knows that such a conflict is bound to erode public and military morale and to render his hopes for the reconstruction of Iraq, on which his political survival will continue to hinge after the war, virtually impossible.

Conversely, an early ground encounter in Kuwait will enable him to give the coalition "a bloody nose" and to pull out of Kuwait with a large part of his armed forces in tact. This, in turn, will allow him to claim a victory, a claim which may be shared by many in the Arab world and will, consequently, enable him to survive after the war. Whether or not his strategy will work still remains to be seen.

The author is a lecturer at The Department of War Studies, Kings College, London.



## WEAPONS

### Textbook British success

By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE attack by Royal Navy Lynx helicopters on the cream of the Iraqi navy could have come straight from a training textbook.

The Lynx helicopters carried by HMS Brazen, Cardiff and Gloucester quickly picked up their targets on radar, then launched Sea Skua missiles exactly as the manuals describe - with total, all British, success.

The Lynx helicopter, which was flown by Prince Andrew when he served on HMS Brazen, is designed and built by Westland and first flew in March 1971. It quickly established itself as the perfect helicopter for use on board ship, as well as on land, and 60 of the HAS Mark2 versions were delivered to the Royal Navy during the late 1970s.

The 49th 9in long helicopter has a crew of two and can carry a variety of weapons from the Sea Skua, which proved so successful yesterday, to air-launched torpedoes and 20mm Oerlikon cannon.

The real striking force of the Lynx, however, is its Sea Skua missiles, four of which can be carried in pylons extending out from the body of the aircraft. The Sea Skua is made by British Aerospace with parts coming from Stevenage and Bristol and final assembly in Rostock near Bolton.

## WAR IN THE GULF: DAY 14

### ALLIED FORCES

**SORTIES:** More than 28,000 allied air missions flown since war began. **LOSSES:** Fewer than twenty troops from the US, Saudi Arabia and Qatar reported killed after the biggest ground battle of the Gulf war, when Iraqi troops launched attacks on the ground to occupy the abandoned Saudi border town of Khafji for a brief period. 24 aircraft have been lost so far: 18 in combat, including 11 American, 5 British, 7 Kuwaiti, 1 Italian. Non-combat losses: 3 American planes, 1 British, 1 Saudi. One British plane lost to undetermined causes, 3 American helicopters to non-hostile causes. 27 men are missing in action, including 14 Americans and 10 Britons.

**CLAIMS:** An Iraqi mechanised battalion crossed the Saudi border west of al Wafra on Tuesday night and yesterday a column of tanks attacked at the same point. Both incursions were beaten back by Iraqi losses to men and equipment by coalition air strikes and ground attacks. A second mechanised battalion which entered Saudi Arabia north of Khafji just before midnight, was repulsed with heavy casualties by allied air strikes. In the fourth attack, after midnight, Iraqi infantry and tanks which crossed the border northwest of Khafji were attacked by allied air forces and forced to withdraw.

By the afternoon about 50 Iraqi troops still held parts of the town but they were completely surrounded by US Marines, Saudi and Qatari troops. A marine source said helicopters evacuated the US casualties from the area.

Twenty Iraqi T55 tanks were destroyed and the Pentagon said allied losses were light while British government sources suggested that Iraqi casualties could run into hundreds dead. Allied forces were reported to have captured 23 Iraqi POWs.

Units from America's 1st Marine Division were most heavily involved

in the fighting. Seven Iraqi naval vessels reported to have been destroyed in the northern Gulf.

**SCUD ATTACKS:** Twelve people have died and 273 have been wounded in Israel since Iraq launched its first missile attack on Israel just after midnight on 17 January, an army spokesman said. Two people died under the rubble from the 27 missiles, the rest died of heart attacks or suffocated under their gas masks when the air raid sirens sounded.

### IRAQI FORCES

**CLAIMS:** Iraq claimed that it had routed allied forces along a broad front inside Saudi Arabia when two columns of its troops launched a lightning attack on Khafji, 12 miles into the Saudi border, Iraq also said it launched missile attacks that set oil refineries on fire. Iraq's *Mother of Battles* Radio said that Saddam, the Revolutionary Command Council and military commanders planned the attack during a meeting last Saturday.

Iraq said it had shot down three more allied planes and fired missiles. This brought to 213 the number of allied aircraft and missiles reported by Baghdad to have been knocked out in the Gulf war. Baghdad said allied planes had launched 127 raids on residential areas and military targets in Iraq since its previous communiqué on Tuesday.

### ALLIED WAR AIMS

John Major said it was impossible to determine in detail what was meant by UN resolution 678, which authorised the "use of all necessary means" to free Kuwait. "We will need to judge that in the light of circumstances and judge our actions against the security council resolutions."

After Saddam's threat to use chemical and nuclear weapons, Martin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, said the Iraqi leader must be stopped.

### Jordanian civilians 'killed by bombers'

Amman - Taher Masri, Jordan's foreign minister, said American warplanes bombed civilian traffic near the Jordan-Iraq border yesterday, killing four Jordanians and an Egyptian. He gave a warning that his country would respond if the attacks recurred.

American strikes also caused the destruction of nine oil tankers, he said. The attacks occurred in Iraq on the road linking Baghdad with the Jordanian capital. Jordan is officially neutral in the Gulf conflict.

"There have also been many injuries to evacuees from Baghdad and Kuwait," he said. He said that he had summoned the American ambassador, Roger Harrison, and relayed our strong condemnation over the US strikes against civilians and civilian targets near Jordanian territory.

### Unicef help

Geneva - The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), in conjunction with the World Health Organisation, aims to get medicines for children to Iraq "with considerable dispatch". "We are working very hard to respond to a request from the Iraqi government dated January 14," Richard Reid, Unicef's director for the Middle East, said.

### Ankara murder

Ankara - Gunmen murdered Hulusi Sayan, a recently retired senior Turkish army general, as his wife looked on. The assassination came hours after three bombs exploded in Istanbul. The blasts were believed to have been carried out by anti-Western groups opposed to the use of Turkish bases by American planes.

### Terror suspects

Cairo - Egypt's interior minister, Abdel-Halim Moussa, said that 17 suspected terrorists being financed by Iraq had been arrested trying to enter Egypt since the Gulf confrontation began. He said that they belonged to eight "known terrorist organisations" which he did not identify.

### Saddam takeaway

Auckland - Kentucky Fried Chicken's 17 Kuwaiti shops were dismantled by invading troops and moved to Baghdad, John Cranor, the corporation's president said. The Iraqi troops went in, ate all of the chicken, dismantled all of the equipment and sent it all to Baghdad. "I don't know what they are going to use it for, but now we have no restaurants in Kuwait," he said. The restaurants were owned by a local franchise operator. (AFP)



KHAFFI

## Ghost town at centre of land battle was once a vacation spot

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA

THERE could not have been a less distinguished spot for the location of the first land battle of the Gulf war than the ragged border and oil town of Khaffi, sited amid featureless sand in the northeastern border of the Saudi desert.

Already abandoned by its 14,000 inhabitants who fled in panic, it resembles a scene from Neville Shute's famous novel *On The Beach* when I visited it last week. There were large American limousines dumped along every road and only the occasional mongrel and goat was to be seen in the empty streets.

In peaceful times, the town was a main crossroads and vacation spot. But most residents evacuated the city at the opening salvo, including dozens of firemen who fled in lime-green fire engines that now sit at a highway gas stop about 60 miles to the south. After the August 2 invasion of Kuwait, thousands of Kuwaitis, including most of the emirate's government, fled south through Khaffi into Saudi Arabia in long lines of Mercedes and BMWs.

Even before yesterday's fighting erupted in earnest, it had been the scene of sporadic exchanges between the allies and Iraqi forces with roads and buildings pockmarked by falling shells and rockets.

Inside the houses, furniture and household possessions had been left behind by the inhabitants who had fled south. Hundreds of cars and commercial vehicles had been driven and parked at a desert lot beside the highway about 31 miles to the south.

An oil storage tank belonging to the Arabian Oil Company, a Saudi-Japanese joint venture, was hit in the early days of the war by

Iraqi shells, leaving a plume of dirty black smoke rising hundreds of feet over Khaffi and fouling the air. The costly water desalination plant, one of only four along the Saudi east coast, had also been put out of action. More recent visitors have found that blobs of oil now clog a concrete culvert leading to the plant.

A slick from the damaged oil plant, washed up on to nearby beaches, added to the impression of devastation. The beaches, some of which are believed to have recently mined were once a favourite picnic spot for local residents.

Even after the exodus, traffic lights still continued to blink. Within days of the population taking the prudent decision to depart, gardens in the more affluent of the cross-crossing streets have begun to wilt.

A sign in Arabic on a great green archway stated forlornly: "The citizens of al-Khaffi welcome all visitors." But apart from the occasional Saudi patrol, the only ones there were some intrepid French photographers and a British television crew, equipped with tin helmets camping out in the otherwise deserted Khaffi Beach Hotel.

Only days before yesterday's battle began, the foreign journalists had been removed by the Saudi authorities, who declared the town a closed military zone. There were reports that Iraqi soldiers were searching in under cover of darkness to find food in the abandoned houses.

Some shops had been boarded over, but others were still stocked with more affluent products than to be found in most other parts of the Arab world. The number of

cars left in the open, some slewed at odd angles, bore silent witness to the speed with which the town had been abandoned.

Many of its buildings were single-storey and none were equipped with shelters which could have provided cover from Iraqi bombing. According to friends of families, who have now fled mostly to stay with relatives in other parts of Saudi Arabia, the main fear was that the town would be targeted for a chemical attack by the Iraqis.

The frontline positions were guarded by troops from Saudi Arabia and Qatar, with the US Marines dug in much further back in the desert - but not in as great a number as are to be found along some other forward ally positions.

Some of the Saudi soldiers looked frightened at the responsibility suddenly thrust on them for guarding an area which would immediately attract the attention of Iraqi gunners - some of whom were quickly put out of action by deadly American air strikes.

One young soldier, the beginning of a moustache on his upper lip, appeared no older than 18. When we asked him when the land war would begin, he responded with military precision well beyond his years: "Soon."

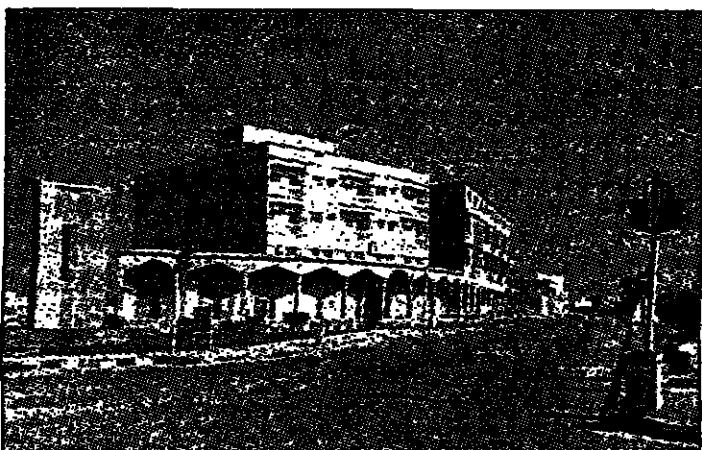
Signposts of the one main road running through the town showed it was only 83 miles from Kuwait City. Most allied predictions had pointed to land battles beginning further to the west.

Early enough during daylight hours, the town became more nightmarish as darkness fell and the occasional distant thud of explosions could be heard from allied bombing missions against Iraqi targets further to the north.

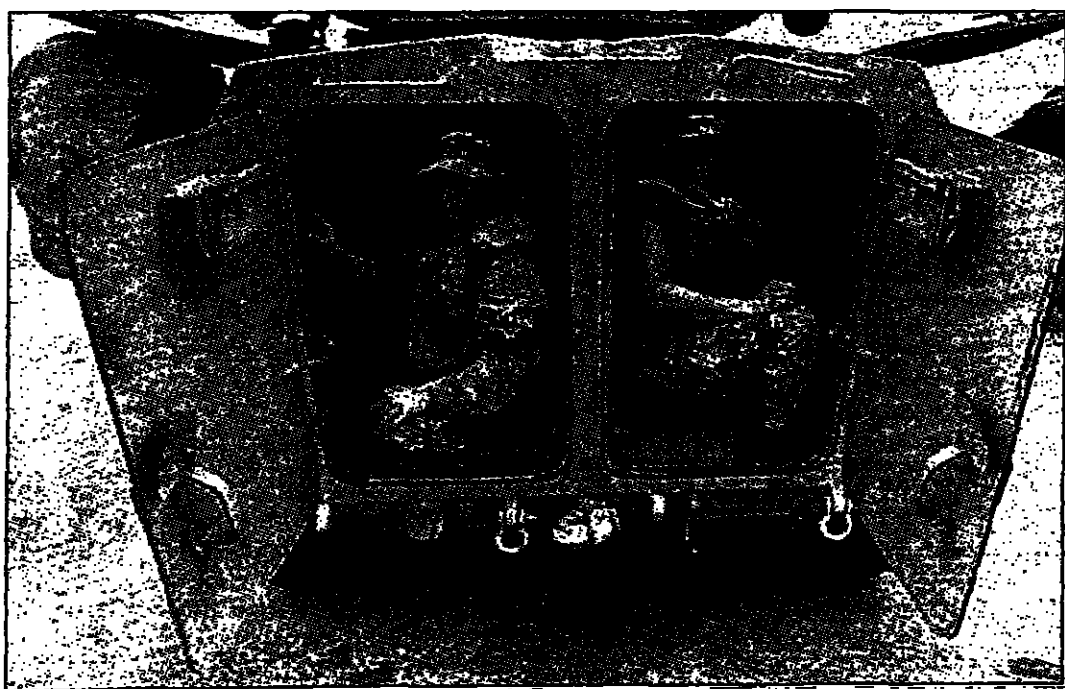
The ghost town which yesterday became a battlefield already had the stench of decay from rotting rubbish piles left uncollected. Subsequent visitors told how that stench had in its turn been overtaken by the stench of oil from the two-mile-long oil slick.

By all accounts of the serious fighting in the Khaffi streets yesterday, the bodies of soldiers will by now have joined those of the dead birds killed by the oil. One colleague, who visited the town recently after evading Saudi roadblocks set up to keep out journalists, said on his return: "It did not seem the sort of place that anyone in their right mind could think worth dying for."

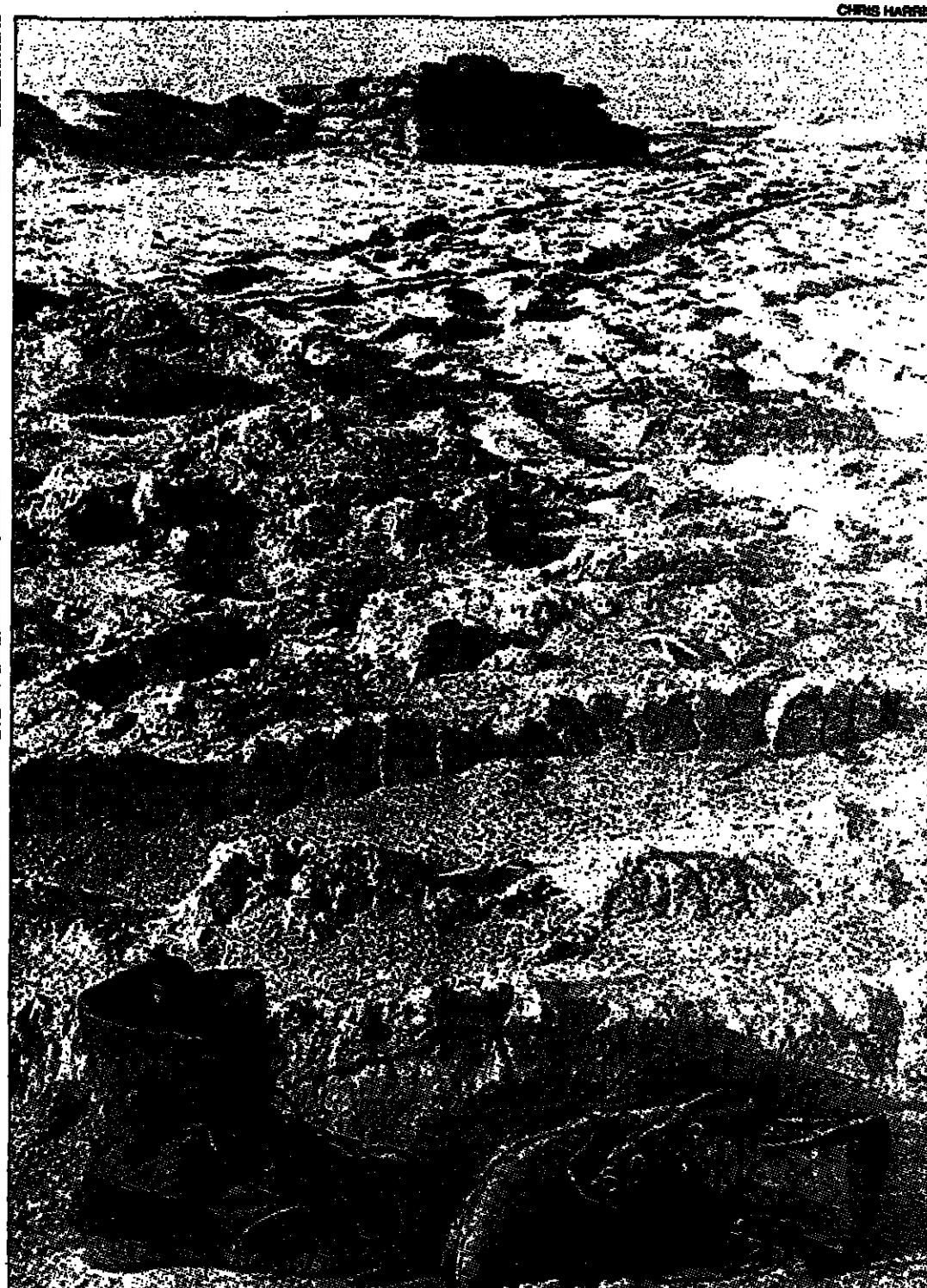
(This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions.)



Battle ground: the deserted town of Khaffi, in Saudi Arabia, where allied forces and an Iraqi patrol fought yesterday



Road to war: US marines in the back of an armoured personnel carrier heading towards the front as the first significant ground battle of the war was being fought around Khaffi



CHRIS HARRIS

ISRAEL

## Hundreds held by security forces

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

WHILE international attention is focused on war in the Gulf, Israeli security forces are clamping down on the intifada. Diplomats and civil rights activists said yesterday that hundreds of Palestinians had been detained, the most prominent being Sari Nusseibeh, a leading intellectual.

Diplomats said that the action could prove counter-productive, especially since the charge against Mr Nusseibeh, of spying for Iraq, "lacked credibility".

The Foreign Office said yesterday it was disturbed to hear of Mr Nusseibeh's detention. "If the Israeli authorities have evidence to support the accusations against him, he should be brought to trial," a spokesman said.

Police arrested Mr Nusseibeh at his home early yesterday. A police statement said Mr Nusseibeh, a lecturer in philosophy at Bir Zeit University in the occupied West Bank, had been placed under administrative detention for six months - which can be extended to a year - because of "his activity in collecting security-related information for Iraqi intelligence, especially in the recent period following missile attacks on the centre of Israel".

Mr Nusseibeh was educated at Oxford, and has an English wife. The police statement accused him of serving as a channel for information supplied to the PLO, which in turn had relayed it to Iraq. His wife, Lucy, described the accusation as "vicious and ridiculous", and said that even if he had wished to supply such information he could not have done so because the West Bank has been under continuous curfew for two weeks.

Mr Nusseibeh is seen as the kind of local leader who might have taken part in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. But Israelis were incensed by an article he published a week ago in the Arabic daily *al-Fajr*, suggesting that President Saddam Hussein was an Arab hero for holding out for so long.

(This dispatch is subject to Israeli military reporting restrictions)

WAR AT SEA

## Crew stay on alert for chemical attack

FROM JAMIE DEITMER ON BOARD HMS LONDON

THE Royal Marine colour sergeant had no hesitation when asked how his 16 men on HMS London would take chemical attack. "In their stride," he said.

It would be unwise to argue with the stocky Colour Sergeant Kevin Brennan, a Falklands veteran who has also seen service in the IRA stronghold of South Armagh. However, he was tolerant of further questioning and explained that whatever happened in a battle his marines would continue to operate the close-range guns on the ship's decks. They would do so despite being outside the sanctuary of the citadel, the chemical and nuclear resistant pressurised air section of the vessel.

"They'll be in their NBC suits and will fire away with their weapons," he said. "After a while they'll go inside, change into fresh suits, and go out again." Others on the London may have less confidence than Sgt Brennan about how they will react in a full-scale battle, but they hide their anxieties well. One officer admitted that for a few minutes after action stations were called at the beginning of the war his hands shook so much that he could not hold a pen.

The T22 frigate is now very much into a routine. The defence watches, six hours on and six hours off for each member of the crew, allow the ship to remain on a high level of alert while at the same time providing officers and ratings with a chance to relax. But even when they are off duty, they can hardly forget the war. Every-

one on board has to wear two layers of constricting anti-flash clothing. The first layer consists of number eights or action working dress, a heavy cotton blue shirt and trousers which have been treated with a flame resistant chemical. The outside layer is even heavier: a thick white cotton overall.

The ship's company have to wear number eights in bed as well. A respirator lifebelt and white anti-flash hood and gloves are carried at all times. Every eight hours the ship's public address system reminds the men to take "one nap now". It is not an invitation to sleep but a prompt for the crew to take one of their pre-treatment anti-nerve gas pills. These tablets have provoked more light-hearted concern than anything else. Made of bromide they have given rise to many public school-style jokes about sexual potency.

On the outbreak of hostilities there was some confusion about how often the pills should be taken. Initially, the men were told to take one four hours after their first tablet, only to be told as they were in the process of swallowing to forget the order.

Meanwhile, the men who do not have access to the ship's ops room, nicknamed the Gloom Room, are kept informed about the progress of the war by regular streps, situation reports, relayed over the Tannoy system.

(This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions.)

Last property: a Saudi Arabian gun outpost near Khaffi, in the northeastern Saudi desert, taken by abandoned when it came under artillery fire. In the scramble to take cover, a soldier left his boots behind. The town, which was evacuated several days ago, had already been the scene of sporadic exchanges between the two sides.

THE  
SALE.  
THE  
END.

FRONT-LINE NOTEBOOK by Nicholas Watt

## Insults on the beach hotel telephone

The first hint of a ground battle in the Gulf came when a voice over the telephone at the Khaffi Beach Hotel said: "We are Iraqi soldiers." He shouted that they were: "Arabs... Arabism... Saddam Hussein, Arabism," and then insulted Egypt.

The Khaffi Beach Hotel is about six miles from the border checkpoint. People at the hotel have often given first hand information about the scene at the border. But this time there was no slow drawl of the Saudi dialect. This was an energetic voice, indifferent to what was being asked.

"What fire, what fire, we don't see anything," one man shouted. "See you in Jerusalem," his comrade said. The line went dead.

As planes thunder over Kuwait a potent symbol of resistance to the Iraqi invasion is the Voice of Kuwait which broadcasts 21 hours a day from Saudi Arabia.

In a small makeshift station, filled with dated equipment, 38 former announcers and writers from Kuwait television and radio broadcast news and advice to their fellow-countrymen on

how to take cover during bombing raids. "It is a sign we are still a country," Arwa Saleh, a Kuwaiti based in Saudi Arabia, said. Hutham al-Sabah, an exiled member of Kuwait's royal family said: "For many of us, the radio station is all we have left."

The station began broadcasting hours after the Iraqi invasion on August 2 when a few journalists commandeered a mobile transmitter and then broadcast for three days before fleeing to Saudi Arabia.

Good of George knows how to touch the hearts of his troops in the Gulf and he struck just the right note in his State of the Union address. It was 5.00am Gulf time yesterday when President Bush stood before Congress, but thanks to the latest satellite television links the forces could gather in tents to watch him.

When he praised US forces as "truly America's finest", Congress responded with a minute-long standing ovation. Afterwards 24-year-old Sergeant William Resides, from the First Tactical Fighter Wing mobile hospital unit, declared: "You see a bunch of men in suits stand and clap for you like that, it gives

you a sense of pride. It brings a tear to your eye. It wrenches your heart."

However, before President Bush gets too excited by the reaction to his speech, even his loyal troops questioned his approach on domestic issues. Many gave him just average



marks for his comments on the economy, education and civil rights.

Soldiers at the front have been bundling up like mummies in layers of long-johns, sweaters and hooded parkas to fend off the bitterly cold and wet weather.

The only protection many have against the freezing temperatures and wind are their

fighting holes and sandbag covers. Soldiers said that when their sleeping bags became soaked it was like spending the night in a bucket of iced water until an officer came to the rescue.

Sergeant Aubrey Butts, of the 82nd Airborne Division, advised his fellow sufferers to "put on everything you got. Hunker down in the holes. Sleep underground. Live like moles. This is the first time you ain't got to tell anybody to dig".

After screwing a small fuse into a 500-pound bomb at a desert airbase, Shaun Rice, US Air Force, took a moment to reflect about what she was doing. "God says: 'Thou shalt not murder.' I try to live my life by God's word. But when I make bombs I feel like I'm killing for the right of my people, my country, not for my own self-pride." Corporal Matthew Spence, aged 27, said: "It's a strange feeling, especially since we have heard that the guys we are shooting at may include old men and children. But it's us or them and this is what we get paid to do."

(Some of these items are from pool dispatches subject to allied military reporting restrictions)

## Saturday Review

### Black, white and true blue

A young man in possession of a great deal of ambition, must be in want of a safe Tory seat. But what if he is black? Kate Muir meets John Taylor, Cheltenham Tory candidate

### Money: fiction in another form

Writer Malcolm Bradbury, not enamoured of the ecu, mourns shrunken notes, forgotten sixpenny bits and a namesake's promise to pay the bearer

### If music be the food of hype...

The Mozart anniversary has produced, among other things, a cheese, a ski and a frisbee. Don't suggest the perfume, they've already thought of that

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## AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

# President's top man with whom people can identify

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

RICHARD Cheney, the US defence secretary, is the middle man of the Washington trio controlling Operation Desert Storm. His subordinate, General Colin Powell, chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff, offers the blood-curdling rhetoric of "cut it off and kill it". His superior, President Bush, prefers to "dampen euphoria".

Mr Cheney is the one who warns in basic language that a day's bombing of Iraq cannot be scored "like a track meet or a basketball game"; he combines the office of a Dr Strangelove with the common touch.

The characters of all three military leaders have come under new scrutiny since the war with Iraq loomed. In the days running up to the United Nations deadline, Mr Bush was a day to day.

It took only two days of war for General Powell to become a cliché of Washington conversation. "If I hear the words 'black Eisenhower' one more time, I'll scream," one congressional aide commented.

Mr Cheney has been the last of the three to get the big media treatment. Since his days in the Ford administration as the young White House chief of staff, he has always liked to hover just outside the limelight. Now that he is a daily fixture on the front pages, his friends say that he is still maintaining political reserves to last a long struggle.

His early career is a classic American political story. He was born 50 years ago in Nebraska, moved in his teens to Wyoming where he went to college (after failing at Yale), and moved in his twenties to Washington where he has thrived virtually ever since.

In 1968 he joined the bandwagon of a rising star-about-town, Donald Rumsfeld. President Nixon had asked Mr Rumsfeld, the representative of Illinois, to head the late Office of Economic Opportunity, and he gave Mr Cheney a job.

The two stayed together with only a short break until Mr Rumsfeld, then White House chief of staff, became President Ford's defence secretary. The chief of staff job was now in the hands of the 34-year-old who preferred the suburbs and the shadows to the bright glare of power. His secret service codename was "backseat".

When Gerald Ford lost the 1976 election, Mr Cheney decided to stand for office in his own right. Two years later, despite a heart attack, he won Wyoming's single seat in the House of Representatives. His electoral hand-out echoed the question once asked in just at the White House: "Who is Dick Cheney?" The answer was "a home town boy made good", a claim which went down well.

By then he had a wife, who was a home town girl made good. Lynne

Cheney is a novelist, journalist and chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, a post from which she campaigns for traditional values in education. The couple wrote a book together, *Kings Of the Hill*, which glorified the great figures of the House of Representatives.

He might by now have been merely the second most senior Republican in the Democratic-dominated House if former Senator John Tower, President Bush's first choice to lead the Pentagon, had not been rejected by his peers, for assorted reasons. The quiet clean-living Mr Cheney, backed by his friend James Baker, the secretary of state, and by his former Ford administration colleague Brent Scowcroft, ("Red Baron" when Mr Cheney was "backseat"), was the immediate choice for the job.

In the next two years Mr Cheney proved himself tougher and more visible than his past seemed to suggest. He was openly sceptical about President Gorbachev's reform hopes when only Dan Quayle, the vice-president, was there to keep him company. He reprimanded one air force chief of staff for lobbying Congress, and last September, fired another, General Michael Dugan, for talking too much about air war tactics and the threat to target President Saddam Hussein's missiles. He has been Mr Bush's personal emissary to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

The defence secretary, despite two further heart attacks and surgery since 1978, is still occasionally talked of for higher elective office. He is conservative, but not rancorously so, a man of intellect who often hides it, a man whose apparently flawless family life plays well in national politics. Of all the president's men he is the one with whom most Americans can identify the most. If the casualty figures start to rise, it is in his capability to inspire trust at home.



Cheney combines military office with the common touch



Golden oldies: Dame Vera Lynn singing with members of the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards at a London recording studio yesterday. They recorded new versions of war-time favourites including *We'll Meet Again* and *White Cliffs of Dover* and all the sale proceeds will go to the Gulf Trust, which is raising money for the troops

## FRANCE

## Socialist Left will close ranks

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN PARIS

AS JEAN-PIERRE Chevènement slipped out of the defence ministry yesterday, using the back door to avoid photographers, right-wing commentators dismissed his arguments in his letter of resignation as defence minister to President Mitterrand.

M Chevènement wrote that "the logic of war threatens to distance us each day". He had "a certain idea of the republic" and could not remain at the post.

The right-wing *Le Figaro* newspaper, welcoming the departure of the maverick Socialist yesterday, said: "This is false. By trying to neutralise the conventional and chemical strike force of Saddam Hussein, the coalition is only applying to the letter the resolution of the United Nations."

Most commentators agreed that the appointment as defence minister of Pierre Joxe, an austere disciplinarian in his years as interior minister, would strengthen France's relations with its allies.

However, with France's small yet lively peace movement against "an American war" becoming more organised each week, there is a worry that M Chevènement and his followers in the Socialist Party will add their support. France's solidarity with the allies will also be under pressure as casualties start mounting.

But M Chevènement's supporters said that they would accept party discipline and not oppose the government until after the war. Latest opinion polls show that less than 20 per cent of those asked oppose the involvement of France's 10,000 troops.

Leading article, page 13

## GERMANY

## Kohl to give Patriot missile launchers and tanks to Israel

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GERMANY is ready to offer yet more money to countries fighting against President Saddam Hussein, Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, told the Bundestag yesterday.

In a comprehensive review of his country's responsibilities to help evict Iraq from Kuwait and establish a new Middle East peace agreement, he promised to supply Israel with defence equipment, to tighten laws against illegal arms exports and to seek ways of altering the constitution to allow German troops to play a worldwide role under the United Nations flag. The chancellor also

promised that Germany would be ready to provide considerable financial help in the region once there was a Middle East peace settlement "including the right of Palestinians to self-determination and of Israel to exist within secure borders".

The chancellor made it clear that Britain can now expect to receive a substantial German contribution towards the cost of fighting the war. Last night he met Douglas Hurd in Bonn to discuss the Gulf conflict. The foreign secretary had a separate meeting with Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his

opposite number, when the two reviewed how Germany could best help supply some of Britain's military needs. Money and equipment were under discussion.

The government announced it was sending Israel eight Patriot anti-aircraft rocket launchers. German Patriots are not designed for shooting down Scud missiles but they will help to improve Israel's air defence. Israel is also getting eight Fuchs tanks, specially designed for tracking chemical weapons as well as other equipment such as gas masks and filters. Israel has also asked for two U-boats to be built and financed by Germany. This request has yet to be cleared but if approved they would not be ready for delivery until the middle of the decade.

From his speech it was obvious that the chancellor had been stung by worldwide criticism of Germany's reaction to the Gulf conflict. At the same time he showed he understood that at least some criticism had been justified. Unification meant Germans must be ready to take up a greater share of responsibility in the world, he said. "There is no cosy little niche in world politics for us Germans and Germany cannot flee from its responsibility. We want to make our contribution to a world of peace, freedom and justice."

Freedom and responsibility were inextricably intertwined, he said. It was a fatal mistake to think people could shut their eyes to new dangers for peace and freedom. Israel along with the countries with armies fighting against "the dictator Saddam Hussein" would receive German help so that UN resolutions could be enforced and Kuwait freed.

The chancellor also said he was going to try to change the Basic Law so that German troops could be deployed as part of a UN force.

## ITALY

## Admiral's views add to doubts on conflict

FROM JANET STOBART IN ROME

ITALY'S war effort in the Gulf met its first sign of mutiny yesterday when the country's chief naval commander in the region said that he felt the war could have been avoided.

*Famiglia Cristiana*, a widely read conservative magazine, published a lengthy interview with Admiral Mario Baracchia in which he was quoted as saying that the war "could have been avoided, with a little wisdom. In my opinion we could have reached a peaceful solution". He said sanctions should have been given more time to work.

His statement caused tumult yesterday in ministerial and military circles as well as in parliament. Virgilio Rognoni, the defence minister, expressed surprise at the admiral's views, saying he felt the interview was "the

result of a misunderstanding". Later, Admiral Baracchia claimed his words had been misconstrued. However, the interview led to demands for his resignation by parties in the government coalition. Pacifists in the opposition were heartened.

"Finally, an admiral tells the truth," said Luciana Castellina, an independent left-wing MP. "Baracchia is only saying what we have always said." Vociferous calls for an end to the war are being made by left-wing groups, students and the Church. Big peace marches have been held throughout Italy.

Not the least of the pacifists is the Pope, who used his Wednesday public audience again yesterday as a platform for further appeals. "To the parties in conflict," he said, "I send requests for peace and solidarity."

## Anti-war activists demand 'a just peace'

London - Anti-war campaigners yesterday issued 15 demands for "a just peace" in the Gulf and claimed the initial war euphoria was wearing off as more people questioned the reasons behind the hostilities (Ray Clancy writes).

The demands from the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament include an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal of allied troops as well as a Middle East peace conference. "If we are to avoid future Gulf wars we need a policy which genuinely addresses political, economic and social reform," said Marjorie Thompson of CND.

Other demands are for the creation of a United Nations peacekeeping force with significant Arab participation, the setting up of a UN relief fund to help refugees and the rebuilding of communities destroyed by the war, and a ban on all exports of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. A new rights monitoring agency is also suggested.

Letters, page 13

## Pakistani move

Islamabad - Three months after his election victory, Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister of Pakistan, is isolated over the Gulf war. He supported Saudi Arabia but finds almost everyone else backs Iraq. He told the Iraqi ambassador he was willing to promote a peace initiative among Islamic nations. (Reuter)

## Kaifu heckled

Tokyo - Toshiki Kaifu, the embattled prime minister, ducked opposition heckling and shoes as he defended Japan's pledge of \$9 billion (£4.5 billion) for the allied forces in the Gulf. Two anti-war protesters threw tennis shoes but missed. The outburst underlined growing public outrage at the latest Gulf aid plan. (Reuter)

## Seoul's pledge

Seoul - South Korea decided yesterday to provide an additional \$280 million (£143 million) to help the American-led multinational forces fighting Iraq, officials said. Five C130 military transport planes and 150 support personnel were also promised. This raised South Korea's contribution to \$500 million. (AP)

## Curse on Saddam

Jerusalem - Ultra-Orthodox Jews have resorted to their ultimate weapon against President Saddam Hussein. The Eda Haredit sect is planning to lay a mortal curse on the Iraqi leader during a mystical ceremony called *pulsa de nura* (lash of fire, in Aramaic). It has had to be put off, however, until the sect is sure of the name of Saddam's mother. (AFP)

## Playground poll finds little racial backlash over conflict

A STRAW poll on the effects of the Gulf war on schools and pupils suggests that while children are concerned about the human cost, there is little evidence of increased racial tension in playgrounds.

Yesterday, the National Union of Teachers issued guidelines for its members after the Commission for Racial Equality reported increased playground violence against pupils from minority groups. The commission also claimed that many children were not being given a balanced account of the conflict.

The Times, however, found little evidence to support the accusations of the commission. Children themselves were interested in the war but said they bore no animosity towards their ethnic minority school friends.

Lucy, aged 13, who attends a school in Chiswick, said she was concerned about the human cost. "It is terrible that so many people are dying. I saw a picture of an Israeli woman on the television and all her living room was gone. I do not want anything like that to happen in Britain."

A girl, aged eight, at an expensive west London preparatory school said a pupil, whose stepbrother was serving in the Gulf, had read out a letter from him at the assembly. "The boys play games about the war. Half the boys have to be Kuwait and half of them Iraq and they rush at each other and throw things like ping pong balls with bomb markings on," she said.

Some children have made an extra effort to find out more about the conflict. Pupils, aged

As pupils declare that racism is the last thing on their minds, teachers are issued with guidelines on how to cope with playground tension, John O'Leary and Peter Victor write

10 and 11, of Ashville College Junior School in Harrogate, West Yorkshire, have sent letters to the 250-strong crew of HMS Brazen in the Gulf. Gareth Lishman, who has two cousins in the Gulf, assured Commander James Rapp, the ship's captain: "Back home in England everybody is praying for you. I bet all you men out there are as white as this sheet of paper because I know if I were out there I would be even more afraid than you."

Ian Beer, the headmaster of Harrow school in northwest London, said he had not per-

ceived any racial attacks related to the Gulf war. "Some of the boys live or have relations in the area and some of the old boys are now commanding officers with the forces out there." Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billière, the British Forces commander in the Middle East, is an old boy, as are King Hussein of Jordan and Crown Prince Hassan.

Jewish school children, concerned about relatives in Israel, are suffering different pressures. John Lazarus, deputy head of the Jewish Prep School in London, said: "Everyone feels very in-

involved. The younger children are terribly worried and some of them get a bit fearful. They want to talk it out in class, which we encourage. The older ones are more political. Everybody has family or friends there and some have soldiers in the family."

Tower Hamlets council, which has a large Asian population, would only say that its education officers were considering the production of an action pack offering guidance to teachers and children. One primary school teacher said the majority of the children in her class, aged five and six, are Muslim Bengalis, and many of their parents backed President Saddam Hussein. She said: "When I tell them my perspective they say that their fathers told them something different."



War effort: pupils writing to crew of HMS Brazen

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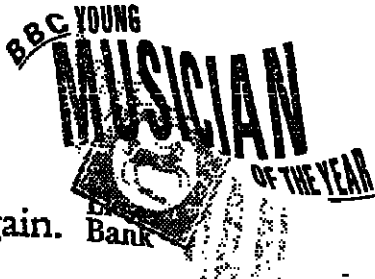
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# We face slowdown but not prolonged slump, Lilley insists

By PETER MULLIGAN

INDUSTRY faces a severe slowdown in demand, Peter Lilley, the Conservative MP, told the Commons yesterday, but he discounted the view that the economy is set to spiral into a prolonged slump.

During a Labour-inspired debate on the recession in industry, he said that the real disease was not the recession but the slow growth and demand. He acknowledged that that would be painful.

He said, however, that the economy was healthier now than it had faced previous recessions and would continue to drive once inflation was curbed.

Mr Lilley told MPs: "The

## TRADE & INDUSTRY

difference between this slowdown and its predecessors is that this time manufacturing has suffered less and the regions and Scotland have suffered less".

On this occasion, the slowdown in the economy had been in the most heavily borrowed areas which he cited as the housing market, the South-East and service industries.

Referring to a "new-found resilience in manufacturing industry", he said that productivity was up. Because manufacturing industry was more competitive and flexible, it was increasingly able to replace weak home demand by finding increased export orders abroad.

He said that the severity of the slowdown in demand meant that price inflation would be curbed more sharply than would otherwise be the case.

Once inflation had slowed, the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be able to cut interest rates; when that was done, non-inflationary growth would resume.

The reduction of the rate of inflation would provide the economy with a stimulus while the government reforms to the labour market, coupled with a pegged exchange rate, would result in a more rapid response to the slowdown in pay costs.

Gordon Brown, shadow trade and industry secretary, opening the debate, said that the recession was unique to Britain and was "designed, fashioned and made in Downing Street".

He called for an immediate cut in interest rates, a Budget for investment in industry, improvements in training and technology and help for regional economic development.

He said: "Ministers told us there was an economic miracle but there was not one. Now they insist on telling us in much of the country there is no recession. But we know there is."

"How can we trust them with the future when they deny prob-

lems of the present and of the past?"

The government had set out to eliminate assistance to industry but had eliminated much of the industry as well, he said. No other Western European country was losing so many jobs so quickly.

Manufacturing employment was about to fall below five million for the first time this century. For thousands of factories and companies, the downturn was a step on the road to closure.

He said that John Major, the prime minister, Norman Lamont, the chancellor and Mr Lilley had been responsible for economic policy in the run-up to the tax-cutting Budget of Nigel Lawson.

He asked: "Did this gang of three have no influence at all? Are they entirely blameless of what went wrong?"

Mr Brown added: "They denied there was a recession and there is. They said it was not severe and it is. They claimed it was happening elsewhere and it is not."

"Try as they might to blame external events, try as they might to find scapegoats, the truth is they cannot blame anybody but themselves."



Waldegrave: preventive medicine is one of his priorities

## GP budget plan goes on back burner

By NICHOLAS WOOD  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

### HEALTH SERVICE

THE health secretary, William Waldegrave, has decided to soft pedal the government's plans for family doctors to manage their own budgets outside health authority control.

His move, which will be welcomed by the profession's leaders, marks a retreat from the policy put forward by Kenneth Clarke, his predecessor and the architect of the fund-holding scheme.

In an article before being switched to the education department last November, Mr Clarke looked forward to fund-holding expanding year by year as more doctors drew up their own contracts to buy hospital care on behalf of their patients.

However, in an interview with *The Times*, Mr Waldegrave made clear that his ambitions for the scheme, which will be pioneered in April by about 300 practices, are more modest.

The health secretary said that he regarded the scheme as a safety valve. He suggested that it should be required only where district health authorities ignored the wishes of their GPs about where their patients should be referred for hospital treatment.

The health secretary said: "GP fund-holding is a very important safety valve. If there is not close enough consultation between GPs and districts, the GPs can take some of the money and that will very sharply remind the districts that they cannot take the GPs for granted."

Mr Waldegrave has made preventive medicine one of his top priorities. He attaches great importance to a green paper on the subject to be published soon. He wants to set strategic targets for the health service, for instance reducing deaths from the main killers such as heart disease. He believes that the health reforms are an opportunity for such an initiative because they will enable him to steer resources to hospitals "capable of delivering the goods".

## Let nurses prescribe, MP asks House

A Conservative MP's bill to allow nurses to write some prescriptions was introduced.

Its sponsor, Dudley Fishburn (Kensington), said that thousands of patients received care at home from the country's 28,000 community nurses. Yet those nurses could not write prescriptions although they were familiar with the medicines needed.

### Sewage hope

The government hopes to comply with the EC directive banning the discharge of raw sewage into the sea by 1995.

David Tripper, the environment minister, said in the Commons. It was committed to compliance by 1997, but he believed that the objective could be achieved earlier.

### Pollution study

David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, has ordered a study of pollution near a waste disposal plant after the discovery of contaminated duck eggs on a farm near by. Torfaen council officials found polychlorinated biphenyls in the eggs near the Rechem International plant at Pontypool, Gwent.

### Griffiths job

Lord Griffiths, head of the Downing Street policy unit under Margaret Thatcher, was appointed yesterday chairman of the Centre for Policy Studies, one of the most influential Tory think tanks.

### Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Treasury; prime minister. Ministerial and Other Pensions and Salaries bill, second reading. Lords (3): Debate on Law Commission report. *The Ground for Divorce*.

## Seek US advice, ex-addict says

By JOHN WINDER

### ADDICTION

A CONSERVATIVE peer whose drug addiction was treated successfully in Minnesota after all treatment in Britain had failed said during a Lords debate yesterday that the health department should send a team to America to study methods of treatment.

Lord Mancroft, who is chairman of the addiction recovery foundation, said that the National Health Service was the biggest supplier of addictive drugs in the world.

His life had been governed for years by an overpowering addiction for heroin, cocaine, alcohol and pills. His family had searched

everywhere for the help he needed. He had seen many experts, spent time in many hospitals and had been sent to see the senior Home Office psychiatrist at the time.

"His treatment was such as to be wholly inaccurate and almost dangerous, and he is still a Home Office adviser."

After his treatment in Minnesota he had made a full recovery.

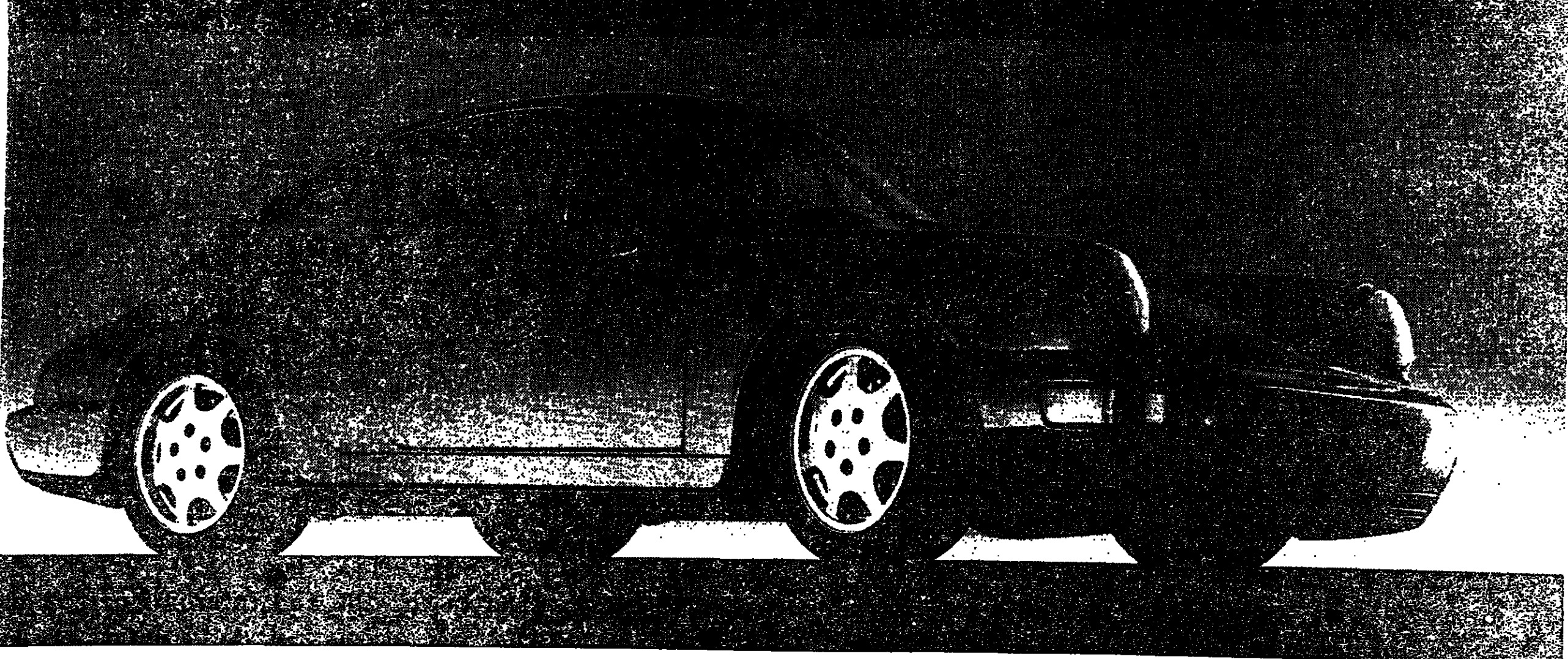
"The knowledge I have gained brings me to the inescapable conclusion that the chances of an addict getting any help in Britain in 1991 are scarcely better than they were in 1981 and the price of

addiction and alcoholism in social, health and economic terms is no longer acceptable. We must therefore not accept it."

Lord Rodney (C) chairman of the standing conference on drug abuse, who opened the debate, said that they could not turn the clock back but could ensure that drugs did not become as readily available as alcohol.

Lady Ewart-Biggs, for the Opposition, said that in June 1989, 10 per cent of men in prison were there for drug-related offences, and of women, 26 per cent. The large number of women imprisoned was because of the sharp increase of sentencing of female carriers from abroad.

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And in the unlikely event that traction is lost at either end of the car, 100% of the drive power can be automatically transferred to the opposite set of wheels.

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## Electricity on the rise

Electricity on the rise

Electricity on the rise

## Drive on phone

Drive on phone

Drive on phone

## Church theft

Church theft

## Opt-out fails

Opt-out fails

## Port grows

Port grows

هكذا من لايصل



## Breast cancer checks could save 1,250 lives a year

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 1,250 women suffering from breast cancer could be saved from death each year and expect to live another 20 years if the national screening programme was more widely used, government advisers said yesterday.

By the end of this decade one in four breast cancer deaths will be prevented among women aged 50 to 64, the eligible age group, if 70 per cent of them participate, according to a health department advisory committee.

The £25 million-a-year programme, the first national system of its kind in the world, has been dogged by uncertainties about its effectiveness since it was set up in 1986. The programme offers a mammograph, or breast x-ray, and follow-up treatment if necessary, every three years, through a network of 90 centres.

Breast cancer is the leading fatal cancer among women, causing about 15,000 deaths a year in Britain. It is diagnosed in another 24,500 women annually.

A report from the advisory committee endorsed the government's view that the programme will have a significant preventive impact, but will not be without serious problems.



Bottomley: "the value of screening is confirmed"

lens. Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, said: "All should be greatly encouraged by the conclusions, which confirm the value of routine breast screening for women between 50 and 64."

"We are going in the right direction to create a service of great benefit to women," she said that all women in the age group in England should have received a screening invitation by 1993.

However Roger Blamey, professor of surgical science at Nottingham City Hospital, said that in some areas the programme would have to be slowed down because of the demands it made on surgeons and other specialists.

"The system means that from a typical screening centre, about six more women every week will need minor surgical treatment just at a time when the axe is falling all round the country on surgery in general," he said.

"There is no point in screening women if you cannot then offer them the appropriate treatment, such as a biopsy to ascertain whether they have an early form of cancer."

The report said that reforms to be introduced in April might reduce the availability of surgical services for such women. Many of those in the target age group do not come forward because they are afraid of the outcome or are not convinced of the benefits of treatment.

At the same time, clinics are under pressure from women under 50, who want to be examined but are ineligible. The report says studies have shown that screening does not reduce breast cancer deaths among women under 50 and attracts a poor response among women over 65.

Health, page 17

## Enquiry on Sutcliffe complaint

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR Scotland Yard detective is to investigate allegations that Sonia Sutcliffe, wife of the Yorkshire Ripper, may have given conflicting evidence during two libel actions.

Yesterday a spokesman for the Crown Prosecution Service confirmed that the police had been asked to look into a complaint against Mrs Sutcliffe. The complaint was made on behalf of the magazine *Private Eye*, which was ordered to pay her £600,000 after a libel action in May 1989. The figure was reduced on appeal to £60,000.

Legal advisers to the magazine compiled a report after Mrs Sutcliffe, aged 40, of Bradford, lost an action last year against the *News of the World*. The prosecution service will examine the conclusions of the police enquiry before deciding on any action.

## Liverpool ex-leader arrested

By RONALD FAUX

TONY Byrne, former leader of Liverpool city council, was arrested yesterday by Merseyside police investigating land deals in Liverpool.

He became the twenty-third person to be arrested and released on bail without charge in Operation Chertah, the police enquiry into the sale of council land and contracts awarded by the council.

Mr Byrne was finance committee chairman when the Labour council was dominated by Militant supporters and was regarded as the chief architect of the council's urban regeneration strategy which involved large-scale borrowing from foreign banks to finance a housing programme. He became council leader when Derek Hatton, deputy leader, and Tony Mulhearn, chairman of the Liverpool district Labour party, were expelled.

## Drive on phone pests

A campaign to beat "heavy breathers" and obscene and threatening callers who make 25 million malicious phone calls a year was launched yesterday by British Telecom. A free helpline service telling customers how to counter the menace began operations and it will also be easier for BT to disconnect telephones used to make malicious calls.

Part of the strategy is to convince telephone pests that it is increasingly easy to trace them. Leaflets giving advice to customers on tackling malicious callers will be available.

## Church theft

Thieves have stolen two brass chandeliers — one 18th century and one 19th century — from St Peter and St Paul Church at Seal in west Kent.

## Opt-out fails

Parents at King Edward VI school at Totnes, Devon, have voted against a plan to opt out of local authority control.

## Port grows

Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, today opens an £8 million extension to Teesport Container Terminal that doubles capacity.

## Jobs go

Workers at Powell Duffryn's foundry at Poole, Dorset, have voted for job losses instead of a four-day week, and 34 are out of work after the 99-to-71 vote.

## Race study

Researchers are to study harassment of Gloucester's 6,000 black and Asian residents.

## Tie tribute

Sir John Harvey-Jones, the businessman, Henry Cooper, the former boxer, Michael Winner, the film director, and Sir Hardy Amies, the designer, have won Guild of British Tie-makers "Great Britons' Ties".

## Protest penalty

Shaun Underwood, alias John Wilson, aged 23, from Manchester, was yesterday given a suspended 28-day jail term for threatening behaviour in anti-poll tax disorder in south London.

## Seven accused

Five men and two women yesterday appeared in court facing 27 charges, including theft and fraud, involving West Yorkshire police authority.

## Grimaldi death

The Dowager Marquise Kathleen Elizabeth Grimaldi, a relative of Monaco's royal family, has died at her home at Blackburn at the age of 81.

سكزا من لامل



Karen Hadfield leaving court with a friend yesterday after being awarded £339,000

## £339,000 damages for Clapham crash widow

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail yesterday paid £339,000 in agreed damages to the wife of one of the Clapham rail crash victims, bringing the total amount paid out so far in compensation for injuries caused by the disaster to almost £4 million.

Karen Hadfield, aged 30, from Basingstoke, Hampshire, was pregnant when her husband Paul, aged 50, was killed in the train crash in December 1985. Their child, born in August 1989, was awarded £25,000 from the settlement.

Mrs Hadfield sued British Rail for compensation for the shock, grief, and suffering caused by the disaster, and for the loss of her husband's financial support. Before the crash, Mr Hadfield had been a property services engineer for IBM, the computer company.

Jacqueline Perry, for Mrs Hadfield, said in the High Court: "The most poignant aspect of this particular case is that Mrs Hadfield was pregnant at the time of her husband's demise." Mr Justice Popplewell, who approved the settlement, described the award as sensible, and commended Mrs Hadfield, who was in court, for showing very great courage.

Mrs Hadfield's case is the

second to be dealt with by the courts, following the £106,881 settlement awarded to Carol Perry-Lewis, aged 43, from Bournemouth, Dorset, last March for the death of her husband Austin, aged 49. After yesterday's hearing Mrs Hadfield said: "I am just pleased it's all over."

British Rail said that it has paid out almost £4 million in settlements to victims of the Clapham disaster, including payments to the families of 14 of the 35 passengers killed, and about 264 of the 400

people injured in the crash. There are now some 22 cases outstanding "some of which may take time to settle while the full extent of the injury and losses are established," British Rail said.

A teenager who had broken his legs when a train hit him on a level crossing was in a stable condition in hospital yesterday. The incident happened as Steven Russon, aged 16, was using a crossing at factory workers in Oldbury West Midlands, on Tuesday night.

## Fault halts £1m loco

BRITISH Rail has withdrawn some of its newest locomotives from operation between Birmingham and London after the discovery of a potential fault (Craig Seton writes).

Fourteen of the class 90 locomotives, each costing about £1 million, are undergoing tests at British Rail Engineering in Derby. Their withdrawal has meant that InterCity rail services between Birmingham and London have been halved from two an hour since the weekend, although an almost normal

service is expected to resume today. The locomotives were introduced in the London Midland region in 1988.

British Rail said yesterday that a potential fault connected with vibration had been found in the axles of the latest models of the class 90 and they had been withdrawn for maintenance, leading to shortage of locomotives for passenger services.

Under half of the 50 class 90 locomotives operating a used for passenger service. The rest are on freight operations.



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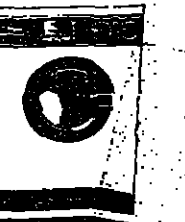
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## Policy Studies Institute survey of Britain in 2010

## No signs of great change in the official crystal ball

By JOHN YOUNG

THE world wars or disasters, life in Britain 20 years' time will not be radically different from now, a report published today

gists. The report, produced by the Policy Studies Institute, with financial support from government departments and industry, presents an all too recognisable picture of poor economic performance, traffic congestion, overcrowding in the South-East, and continuing concern about pollution in the environment. However, it concludes that there will still be substantial growth, enough to create three to four million new jobs.

There may be some fall in the hours of work but that is likely to be offset by the longer hours worked in many higher occupations. There is likely to be some increase in annual holidays. There will be a continuing decline in unskilled manual jobs and a rise in the qualifications and training required for professional, scientific, technical and managerial occupations. Computer-based services and telecommunications

links will open up increased possibilities for operating a console from the living room or the garden, and avoiding commuting.

The introduction of the single European market will give added impetus to the movement of people and jobs to the south of England. The opening of the Channel tunnel will increase congestion in Greater London unless high-

speed rail links are extended to other parts of Britain. The movement of population out of the conurbations, changes in agriculture, increased car ownership and the popularity of open air recreation will put further pressures on the countryside. Rather than encourage large new out-of-town shopping and leisure complexes, planning policies are likely to be directed to rejuvenating city centres and improving public transport.

### 6 The threat of global warming is likely to bring tough action to cut emissions of greenhouse gases, and very much higher prices for electricity, petrol, gas and heating oil 9

one quarter of the population will still need to rent.

Improving drinking water and ending sewage dumping at sea will require heavy investment, largely met by higher charges to householders. The threat of global warming is likely to bring increasingly tough action to cut emissions of greenhouse gases, and very much higher prices for electricity, petrol, gas and heating oil.

Spending on food, drink and tobacco is forecast to fall from 21 per cent of consumer

expenditure in 1990 to 13 per cent in 2010.

On average people in Britain watch television for about 25 hours a week, far more than in most other countries. High viewing levels are likely to continue, along with other home-based activities. But other activities are expected to increase, including visits to the theatre, opera, ballet, cinema, museums and historic sites and buildings. Participation in sport will also grow but attendance at most spectator sporting events will continue to decline.

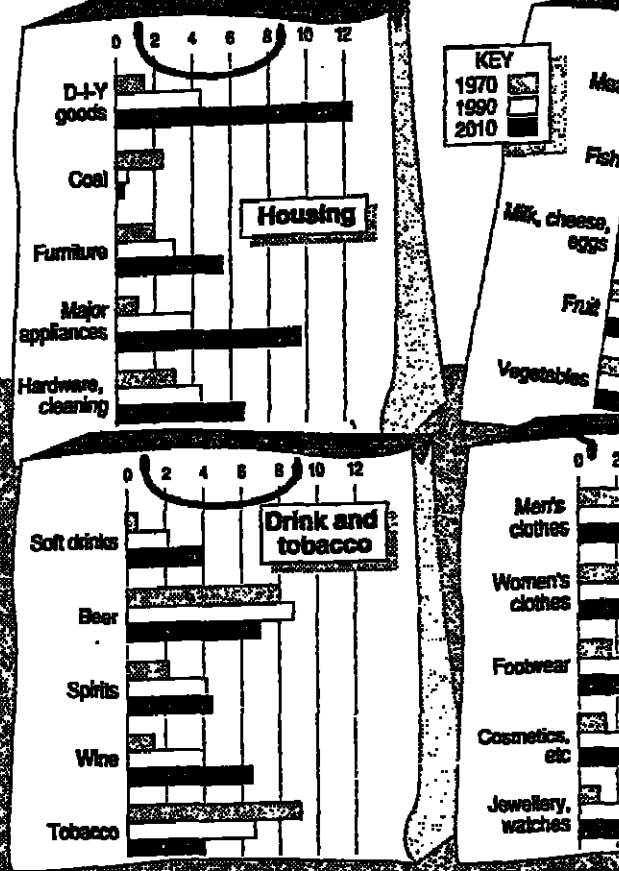
Health care will be improved by new diagnostic systems, surgical techniques and drugs, but they will not extend the normal life span of 80 years or so.

The incidence of divorce and of cohabitation outside marriage will continue to increase, but at a slower rate. The nuclear family of two adults, with or without dependent children, will still be the norm, but marriage will be seen less commonly as a lifetime commitment.

*Britain in 2010* (Policy Studies Institute, 100 Park Village East, London NW1 3SR; £17.95 paperback, £29.95 hardback)

## CONSUMER EXPENDITURE

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## 2,000 million more to feed

THE world's population is expected to increase by about 2,000 million, the equivalent of the combined present population of China and India, by 2010, the report points out (John Young writes).

This increase will bring further great pressures on

food, water and other resources, and will cause environmental problems. Over the next 20 years the United States is likely to remain the world's strongest military power and its largest economy. Japan will continue to grow in economic strength, but at a slightly less rapid rate: China is unlikely to emerge as a giant new economic force until after 2010.

Closer relations between EC member states may well move a long way towards a United States of Europe. The community is likely to be extended by new members: Sweden, Norway, Finland and Austria in the 1990s and later Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and possibly Poland.

The ending of the Cold War will remove one world problem, but the threat of global warming will pose another of no less magnitude, the report says. Air, river and sea pollution, acid rain, nuclear fallout and ozone depletion have all attracted international concern, but global warming raises far more difficult problems which have yet to be addressed.

Looking back over the past two decades Mintel found that between 1970 and 1990 home ownership had increased from fewer than half of dwellings to more than two thirds. Almost three quarters of homes have central heating, compared with little more than a quarter in 1970, and 42 per cent have double glazing, which was rare in 1970.

Sectors showing particularly rapid growth included spending on domestic and garden help (up 394 per cent) and on the purchase of boats and planes (up 377 per cent). Spending on private medical fees also more than trebled.

How top peoples' salaries have fared

## Approval today for 1m pay rises

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE cabinet is today expected to approve pay rises for nearly a million government employees when it considers the annual reports of the public service pay review bodies.

Given the war in the Gulf, most attention is likely to focus on the rises for the 300,000 members of the armed forces, though any increase recommended for the nation's 500,000 nurses is also likely to draw the usual public support.

Expectations in Whitehall are that the proposed rises could be 9 per cent - 2 per cent more than the approximate target for the public services which was being muttered about among ministers earlier in the pay round and probably a good deal higher than the "headline" inflation rate for April, when the increases are due to be implemented.

The rises covered by the Top Salaries Review Body (TSRB), those for about 200 senior officers in the armed forces, the top 660 civil servants and about 1,200 members of the judiciary, are likely to draw any public disapproval there may be. That is partly because some are such obvious aunts salaries: mandarin Sir Humphreys, remote High Court judges, crusty admirals and generals.

Their pay has been set by the TSRB since it was established in 1971 by the Heath government, though its roots go back to the committee on higher civil service pay established in 1955. In the past decade,

those covered by the TSRB have done pretty well. Their rises, like pay generally, have outstripped inflation; but the increases have been bigger than the average in both the public and private sectors and have kept pace with the top 10 per cent in the private sector.

Ten years ago, a judge's pay was £35,000. By 1986 it had risen to £62,100, and on January 1 this year, as part of last year's TSRB staged award, it rose to £77,000. In 1981 civil servants on Grade 2, the level which used to be called deputy secretary, were paid £26,215. They now earn £54,900.

To get what economists call "real" pay increases, rises in inflation have to be set against pay. This gives a real annual average TSRB increase, ahead of inflation, of 4 per cent. In the private sector overall, the equivalent figure is 2.6 per cent although for the top tenth it is 3.8 per cent. In the public services generally it is 1 per cent.

The government has often delayed or staged rises recommended by the TSRB and other review bodies and sometimes refused to pay the full amount recommended, as part of its efforts to hold down wage inflation. The decisions on today's expected reports will show how far it is still prepared to use those public servants covered by review bodies to set an example to employees in the rest of the economy.

Leading article, page 13

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Sir Richard Luce, Conservative MP for Shoreham, said last night that Adur district council had no excuse for setting the charge at £405. "They must carry the can and be fully accountable to all charge payers for this."

"West Sussex county council, which has a very high reputation for prudent spending and is likely to be the lowest spender of all councils, is recommending a budget of 3 per cent below the average spending assessment, at a saving of £58 per charge payer."

**acted in self defence.**

**Speelman wins**

Jon Speelman bit back with a Anatoly Karpov idea to counter the Grunfeld Defence in the third game of the world chess championship qualifying competition yesterday and beat Nigel Short 1-4 moves. The score in the eighth game match in London, to decide who goes through to the next round of the world championship is now 1½ each. The fourth game will be played today.

**Guard on patient**

An unidentified man with serious bomb injuries was under armed guard yesterday in Louth County Hospital at Dundalk in the Iris Republic. The man, believed to be from Northern Ireland, was admitted to hospital some days ago but that was not disclosed until yesterday after efforts by the Garda to identify him had failed and the RUC in Belfast was asked to help.

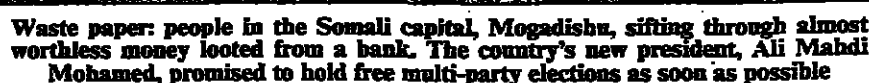


**FROM STEPHEN TAYLOR IN CAPE TOWN**

However, signs of the political and ideological differences that still divide the two parties were not long in emerging yesterday. Themba Khoza, Inkatha's leader in Transvaal, criticised the ANC's decision to call for a work stoppage tomorrow. Mr Mandela is due to lead a march through Cape Town to parliament during Mr de Klerk's speech to press the ANC's demand for the election of a constituent assembly.

Mr Khoza said the campaign was provocative, and called on the ANC to ensure there was no harassment of those who refused to take part, or who wanted to go to work.

The end came after the city council was awarded a supreme court injunction declaring their presence in the city illegal, after the judge was taken to court on the back of a motorcycle because there was no other way through the traffic jams.



**By JOANNA PITMAN  
IN TOKYO AND  
OUR FOREIGN STAFF**

**● Torture triad: A Seoul court yesterday jailed four policemen for between two and five years for torturing a leading dissident during interrogation, court officials said.**

The four, former members of an elite anti-communist unit, were convicted of torturing Kim Kun Tae, the recipient of the 1987 Robert Kennedy human rights award from the United States.

## Play banned

Nairobi — The government has banned a British-Kenyan production of a play that attacks corruption, adapted from *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, the British Council said. The letter said: "It is deemed appropriate that the licence not be given for now, but officials are still studying the script. (Reuters)

From JOHN BEST in OTTAWA:

... integrity of Canada."

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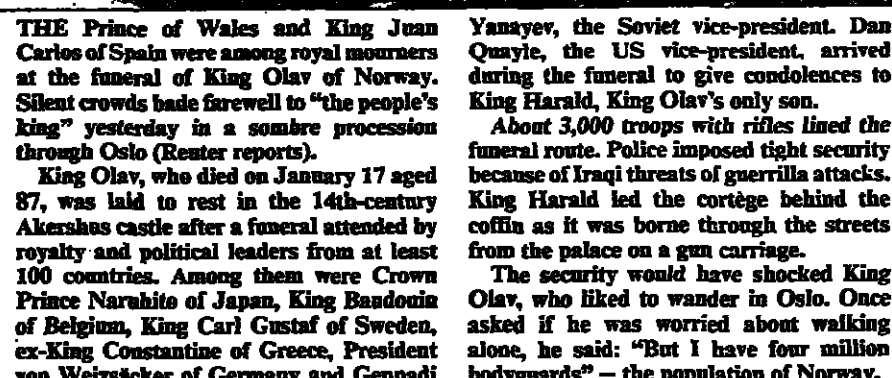
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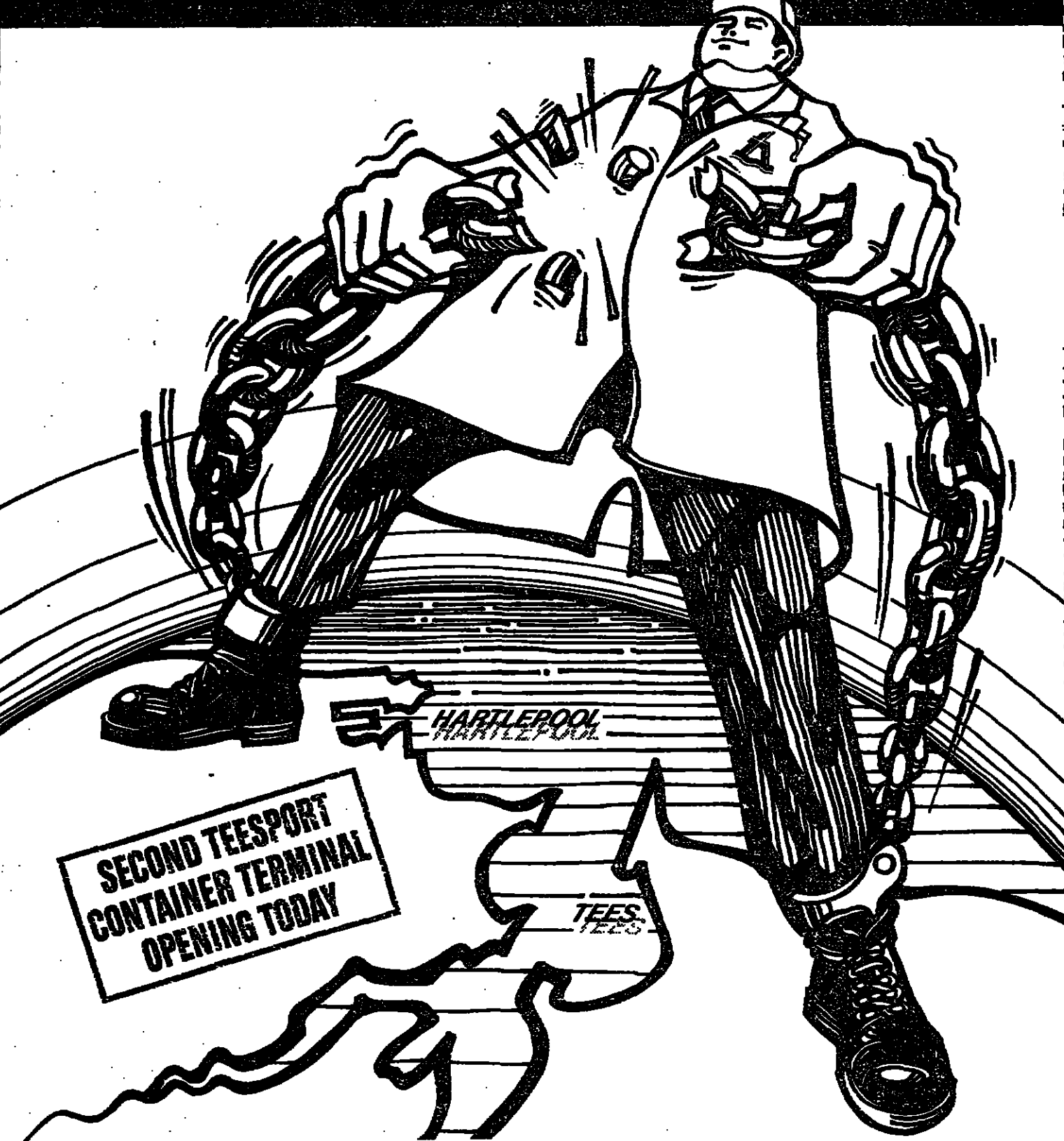
# Hungary vote: to join Nato political group

FROM ERNEST BECK IN BUDAPEST

"They all behave in a self-confident way," says Mr Toman, who co-ordinates questioning of alleged informers. "I cannot understand the psychology of people that act like this, to stay in parliament so brazenly. I can only assume they have been told by someone to behave like this." Some committee members have received death threats. "Much worse is to come when the names of those that refuse to go are published," predicts Mr Toman.



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# Terror with a choice

Conor Cruise O'Brien

There it not for the Gulf war, the Soviet troubles would be leading the news. The war is over, the Soviet Union is still going on. Gorbachev now looks more than a reassuring front man, a member of the armed forces, and the KGB. Boris Yeltsin's personal authority, as the new leader of the democratic forces, seems to be slipping. His life may soon be in danger. The Russian parliament is trying to carry a "compromise" nomination, backed by Yeltsin, to the use of force in the republics, while the army is co-opted. Red Star published a personal attack on Yeltsin by senior officers and by the increasingly right-wing Soyuz faction. The ruling classes of the Soviet Union never lost control, but from the late 1980s until recent months they were in disarray, in the unfamiliar world of articulate opinion. Those ruling classes consist, roughly, of the Communist Party, the higher-level bureaucrats, and the officers of the armed forces and the KGB. These people have a lot to lose. An analysis seems to have convinced them that the time has come to measure the forces against them and they clearly are not going to win. The Soviet Union is a grim one: whether to take their terror wholesale or retail.

## "For many in the Soviet Union, the choice is a grim one: whether to take their terror wholesale or retail"

of the Soviet Union. And it is so, from the point of view of many of them. But an attempt at democratic self-determination within the ethnic mosaic of the Soviet Union would result in manifold civil war and even nastier forms of oppression than are involved in rule by the Kremlin apparatchiks. For many of the Soviet Union's more unfortunate inhabitants, the only choice is the grim one: to take their terror wholesale or retail. As it happens, the retail kind is likely to be more intimately destructive, since it is applied by neighbours and based on ancient animosities and not merely on an abstract claim to exert authority from a distance. And in vast Muslim areas of the Soviet Union, "self-determination" would mean the automatic reduction of the status of women, who now enjoy equality, to a condition of servility. Soviet communism is bad and deteriorating, but there are forces at work in the Soviet Union that may turn out to be worse than Soviet communism itself has been since Stalin's day. That said, it remains true that the forces now taking charge are alarming, not only for democrats and liberals in the Soviet Union, but internationally. Last year's celebrations of "the end of the cold war" appear to have been premature. The postponement of the Bush-Gorbachev summit is symptomatic.

Talking to Robin Oakley in his first newspaper interview since the start of the Gulf war, the prime minister hints at wider aims and a continuing air-sea security role

# Britain will stay in Gulf



Elbow room for further action: John Major yesterday after presiding over the war cabinet

There could be no return to the status quo ante in the Gulf, the prime minister, John Major, said yesterday. Although countries in the area would require guarantees of territorial integrity, he did not believe there would be a western standing army there. Rather, Britain expects to continue naval and air patrols in the region after the war is over as part of the "advice and guidance" to be offered to the Arab states. There could be bilateral arrangements with Gulf states, or the ships and aircraft could be part of a force under United Nations control. A standing Arab army was "a distinct possibility". Mr Major, who urged Arab leaders on his recent trip to the Gulf to begin thinking about the shape of future security arrangements, said it was crucial to find out what those nations in the area who felt themselves threatened wanted to see in the security package.

On the latest developments in the conflict, the prime minister said no-one could be certain which of the various theories about the removal of Iraqi planes to Iran was most credible, but he believed Saddam Hussein was "hustling" his resources. Asked if the allied war aims were changing to include more action in Iraq once Saddam's forces had withdrawn from Kuwait, Mr Major did not rule this out. It was impossible to be precise in defining what was meant by action to secure and preserve peace and security in the region, he said, until the circumstances arose. "We will judge the situation at the time against the Security Council resolutions." Asked if that meant destroying the Iraqi war machine in Iraq after conflict had ceased in Kuwait, Mr Major replied: "It depends on the circumstances. If Saddam Hussein is within Iraq lobbing missiles of one sort or another outside, then the war potentially has not ended." Mr Major said he did not see any prospect of a ceasefire following the joint statement on Tuesday night by James Baker, the American Secretary of State, and Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet foreign minister. They had merely reformulated the conditions underpinning the Security Council resolutions, he said. There was nothing fresh in it. He denied that it was an attempt to give Saddam Hussein the chance to present it as a new initiative. Focusing as he must on the Gulf war, Mr Major has not forgotten that he has a fight on his hands at home as well. Surrounded by doleful recession statistics, battered by leader writers and captains of industry calling for a cut in interest rates and bemoaning what they see as the restrictions imposed by Britain's membership of the EMS exchange-rate mechanism, he could see tensions developing between the government's need to beat inflation and the Conservative party's need to win the next general election. But, sitting in his shirt-sleeves in his Downing Street study after a meeting of the war cabinet, Mr Major was not taking charge of short-term political tricks. He was playing long term to create a competitive Britain. And he had no doubt that inflation was the "central evil domestically" which the government had to put right. Not sounding like a man

contemplating a "khaki election" in June, he declared: "I said when I was Chancellor that I was not going to play games with the economy in a pre-election mode, and I am not. I can draw as evidence the fact that I entered the exchange rate mechanism. If I had wanted to manipulate the economy before the election then I would not have entered the ERM, because the ERM is a tough discipline. "When we went in I said that it was not a quick fix, and a lot of people smiled behind their hands and thought it was a way of producing some pre-election goodies. Well it was not, it is a very firm discipline, and that is why I went into it." Mr Major's thinking is dominated by the fact that there is going to be "no hiding place" once the single European market is operating in 1993. "Only if we are competitive shall we succeed." Conceding trouble at the moment with an inflationary spiral accentuated by "the flip-side of the credit boom" and the international downturn in trade, Mr Major said there was no choice about maintaining the counter-inflation policy. But he offered hope: "We have got inflation on the run, there is no doubt about that. Inflation is falling and will continue to fall. Barring some wholly unexpected development we shall hit our inflation forecast" [5.5 per cent in the last quarter of 1991]. But what of critics who say that ERM membership is paralysing our ability to lower interest rates? He had no regrets, saying that whenever Britain had become uncompetitive because of high wage rates or inefficient investment, there had been a "gentle but persistent" devaluation of the pound to compensate. "There has been no disincentive to cease being inefficient and to cease paying ourselves more," and so we had become less efficient year after year.

What industry wanted, said Mr Major, was a stable exchange rate — and that, courtesy of the ERM, would now be delivered. There would be a painful and difficult period while our culture changed from one in which the currency could be deflated whenever it was convenient to one in which costs were deflated instead. He asked the critics of ERM entry what would have happened to the exchange rate if sterling had been outside the ERM in recent months that had seen the resignation of one of the most powerful prime ministers this century, the start of the Gulf war, the halving and doubling of oil prices and a narrowing of the interest rate differential with the Deutschmark. What would bring interest rates down, he said, was the narrowing of the inflation differential with our European partners which we were now beginning to see.

inter-governmental conference on political union should not overreach itself. The orator, he said, had implied objectives, such as a federal government structure, that would be undesirable. He supported new powers for the European Parliament to control Commission expenditure, an effort to define subsidiarity and to determine where the EC remit begins and ends. But Europe must learn to walk before it could run. "A common foreign policy is a long-term aim and insofar as it can be achieved, is certainly desirable." So was co-operation on defence with the Western European Union, provided it did not become an alternative to Nato. There could be no question of the EC developing a competence on defence. He added: "What goes with that is that the Europeans generally, not just the Community, will have to make a greater contribution to Nato." Whatever the situation in the Gulf, Mr Major has pencilled into his diary a visit to the Soviet Union in early March — but he made clear that the trip would be called off if there were more repressive measures in the Baltic states and elsewhere. Non-humanitarian aid for the Soviet Union too must be conditional on the reform programme continuing and repression ceasing, he said. On domestic policy, Mr Major said that the poll tax review did not rule out abandonment of the tax and its replacement by rates. Privatisation would continue, but more in the form of contracting out in public services, with a searching look at the activities of local authorities. "I have not reached conclusions on this, but I would like to know why local authorities up and down the country own a large number of companies. They may have a perfectly credible reason for it. I want to examine that, see what it is and whether it is desirable."

Education, a theme of his leadership campaign, was the subject on which the prime minister was readiest of all to dwell. It was quite right, he said, that people should be free to choose between state and private education. "But they ought not to be pushed into making one of those choices because the other delivers an inadequate level of education. I want the state education system to be as good as we can make it." To raise standards, high-quality teachers were essential. That was not just a matter of cash: teaching had to attract the cream of university graduates and people with special skills. However, his thoughts were not yet "fully worked up" and his mind was open. "I approach this issue with an instinct that something needs to be done and we are trying to determine exactly what it is."

In his first speech as leader, Mr Major promised that the Tory party would not be an exclusive club. In that case, what message did he have for those Cheltenham Tories trying to select black barrister John Taylor? "I would say: 'Don't. He is a good candidate. He is an able man, he was properly selected, and he will make a first-class MP. He has my full support.'"

And would he want to retain in the Conservative party some of those attempting to get rid of Mr Taylor? If they were objecting on procedural grounds, that was legitimate, if wrong. "But if, lurking in the back of anybody's mind, is the thought that Mr Taylor ought not to be the Conservative candidate for Cheltenham because he is not white, then I am not interested in their support."

Had Mr Major been flustered by the fuss over his failure to appoint a woman in his first cabinet, and might he choose a woman when he next makes a cabinet appointment? Mr Major steepled by replying that he had more women middle-rank ministers than for a long time. "I have no doubt that a number of them will get into the cabinet, and I look forward to that." What he wanted was more women in Parliament: the problem there lay at selection-committee level.

And was the existing cabinet the one with which he intended to face the elections? That depended, he said, on when the election was held, but he did not envisage "significant" changes. Although a self-proclaimed champion of classlessness, Mr Major thought the honours system was "thoroughly worthwhile", especially for the voluntary workers it rewarded. After Denis Thatcher's baronetcy, he did not rule out further hereditary honours. There was, however, a hint of reform to come. Honours were currently graded according to rank: "People, I think, should be honoured according to what they have achieved and what they have done, but I do not think I am going to go further than that."

He was ready, he signalled, to revive the royal commission (which Mrs Thatcher disliked), because it carried with it "a special authority" in subsequent policy development. Calm and unhurried in his replies, Mr Major showed no signs of wariness. Only one thing really fazed him: try discussing his image and he comes as close to squirming as he will ever do.

...and moreover

## CLEMENT FREUD

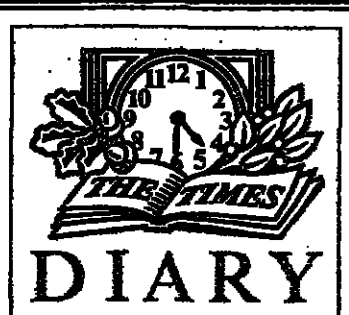
Got me again at the beginning of last week: both feet, both ankles, hands but I have long found them fallible in their understanding of matters political. There is a rough sort of justice about this in that I have had you for 25 years and am way ahead on balance: now and again when the disease manifested its symptoms I would take a Rheumox pill or three and the swelling went down, the pain diminished, my temper improved. What happened at the beginning of last week was that my body finally rejected the beneficial effects of that pill. The affliction is not just painful but causes deep depression and accelerated technicality. You sit with your feet on the desk watching *Twin Peaks* (what is Peter Palumbo doing as an FBI agent?) knowing that nothing is any good: the news-agent delivers the *Daily Telegraph*, fishmongers run out of John Dory, mayonnaises curdle... and you look around for something, anything, to provide comfort and joy. Luckily I have a betting slip which currently does just that.

Honest Cyril of this world have the edge when it comes to assessing the form of horses and greyhounds but I have long found them fallible in their understanding of matters political. My first inkling of this came at an East Anglian by-election in the summer of 1973 when they offered 5-1 on the Conservative candidate (put on a five and get back £6, less tax), 4-1 against Labour (£1 to win £4) with Liberal at 33-1. I had a substantial bet on the outsider. There were a number of reasons for this: Mr Heath's government was about as unpopular as a government can get; Mr Wilson's opposition as feeble as an opposition had been in living memory; also, I was the Liberal candidate. Thirty-three to one are not odds that persuade the electorate that you are in with a chance. As a result of this wager my odds were cut to 8-1 and a political pundit reporting from Ely wrote: "The clever money is going on Freud." I won the election and collected; have been collecting on elections and by-elections ever since.

I backed John Major in November because Mrs Thatcher was going to support her Foreign Secretary and because I knew the softness of the Heseltine vote. Having shovelled money on the outsider of three and had the wager confirmed, the bookmaker asked: "Will there be anything else?" A phrase generally connected with the hairdressing profession. All right, I said, I will also have a

## Poignant payments

Tom King's deliberations about troop deployments in the Gulf could soon be interrupted to deal with a pressing military matter nearer home. To splutters of outrage in messrooms up and down the country, the Royal Armouries at the Tower of London have sent rental demands for thousands of old weapons proudly displayed in regimental headquarters and on parade grounds. Most of the bills have been left unpaid as the regiments concerned have redirected them to Whitehall with angry messages. A decision on payment may now have to be made by the defence secretary. Hitherto, the cherished military mementos — among them Napoleonic cannon, Cromwellian pikes and 18th-century breastplates — have been freely loaned by the armouries, still the legal owner, although many of the items are regimental relics won in battle down the centuries. Each item is now liable to an annual charge based on 1 per cent of its value, with a minimum fee of £75, and a further 0.5 per cent if the item is not on public display. Peter Hammond, deputy master of armories at the Tower, says nearly a fifth of the national collection of old weaponry and armour, totalling some 5,000 pieces, is on loan to military centres throughout Britain. "Our real income is falling and we can no longer afford to administer the loan service and conserve these items without introducing a charge. The sums are tiny but, totalling £50,000 a year, they are critical for us."



## World of difference

The BBC has plans to change the world. The familiar revolving globe has been redesigned, but the introduction of the new look has been delayed by BBC chiefs, who fear the Gulf war will diminish its impact. The Corporation has spent a six-figure sum on new identities for all parts of its empire which, after a year's work, were approved earlier this month by Pam Masters, head of television presentation, and the radio controllers. A spokesman for designer Martin Lambie-Nairn, who was also responsible for the Channel 4 logo and the controversial laser beam introduction to *The Nine O'Clock News*, says: "The BBC is probably the most important company of its kind in the world, and our design reflects that. We are not allowed to talk about the detail." Sources within the BBC say, however, that BBC Two will give way to BBC2, and that the BBC1 globe will stay but will look "radically different". To see, we shall have to wait until the plans of that other global redesigner from Baghdad have run their course.

The really weighty question not asked in Robin Oakley's interview with John Major above: what did the prime minister do on his first date with Norma, his wife-to-be? He fell asleep, "during Joan Sutherland's aria at a gala performance," he admits in an interview in next week's *Women's Realm*. He also reveals that his arrival — not just in Downing Street — was an even bigger surprise than most realise. "Mother went to the doctor about her indigestion when in fact she was seven months pregnant," says Major.

## Season's greetings

Even the London season is not immune from the effects of war. A series of paintings of events such as Ascot, Henley and a charity ball, by the Tangier-based artist Lawrence Mynott — to illustrate a champagne company's guide to 1991's upper-crust social scene — has fallen foul of Moroccan customs officials, who have

## Do drop in...

While many MPs have a second job, colleagues of Eidon Griffiths fear that he has gone too far. Seven thousand miles too far, to California, to be precise, in a move that has led fellow Tory backbenchers to dub him "the member for Orange County". Griffiths has strong transatlantic connections, having worked as a correspondent for *The Washington Post* and as foreign editor of *Newsweek*. His extracurricular American activities have grown rapidly since he relinquished his paid post as adviser to the Police Federation in March 1989. Now he divides his time between Westminster and the American west coast, where he has a lucrative lecturing contract. Most of his constituents are unaware that he spends much of his time in climates far warmer than Bury St Edmunds, for Griffiths — who is to retire from Parliament at the next election — makes a point of speaking in Commons debates when in Britain. His record of eight speeches in the last 12 months is better than that of many colleagues who never go further west than Penzance. He also rings his Westminster office daily from wherever he may be. But callers to his constituency office asking for a surgery appointment are being told that the MP held one two weeks ago. "You have just missed it. The next one is at the end of February."

middle ground in unrecognised corners today after Archbishop of Canterbury. His philosophy is to protect his own interests — such as his real estate — and to be a diplomat. He has questioned him of weak leadership at a time of international radicalism. In addition, an eager desire to clear-cut decisions in the domestic women. He has controversy over his report on the situation in the Balkans. He is true, but he has the virtues as an archetypal wit. He is not a radical. His prickly relations with the prime minister were a triumph. He was a triumph after the Falklands. He had no time for the new in the social scene. He had no sympathy for the Church of England. He did it.





## PUSILLANIMOUS PARTNERS

Britain's principal European partners, France and Germany, have both been thrown into turmoil by the Gulf war. The French defence minister, M Jean-Pierre Chevènement, has resigned from a government whose policy he had openly opposed for six months. Chancellor Kohl has abandoned his lukewarm attitude to the allied war effort and is offering an additional \$5.5 billion to America, as well as up to \$670 million of arms for Israel and a strengthening of the Luftwaffe's token squadron in Turkey. These reversals in French and German domestic politics have had consequences for the war. They are bound to have greater implications for the peace.

France has always pursued a policy of robust and sometimes sentimental nationalism by cynical means. While President Mitterrand was dispatching the aircraft carrier Clemenceau to the Gulf last August, his defence minister was advocating appeasement. On the eve of war, M Mitterrand deceived John Major about his intended peace initiative in a manner unparalleled in recent European history. As a mainstream socialist, M Chevènement gave respectability to the strange bedfellows who are united in opposition to the war: Georges Marchais's communist party and Jean-Marie Le Pen's national front. His departure was overdue.

As for Germany, there is palpable disappointment in Britain that the nation of Blücher, Moltke and Rommel now gives money to the American war effort only under duress. But the revision of Bonn's reluctant stance has been accomplished with commendable speed. Always quick to abandon untenable positions, Herr Kohl yesterday lectured his parliament to the effect that "there can be no safe little corner in world politics for us Germans". Tough measures have been announced against German firms which break sanctions to supply Iraq with new weapons.

Yet political reservations about the war, which both France and Germany have now

temporarily set aside, have not disappeared. Neither country likes to be seen to support American policy too readily, especially not the French. Both like trade too much to nourish quarrels with the Arab world. In the French case, this has contributed to a weakening in military commitment to the allied cause. Though some 10,000 French servicemen are now engaged in Saudi Arabia, the impression has been given that Paris is willing to wound but afraid to strike.

Britons and Americans should recognise the difficulties that M Mitterrand and Herr Kohl have had in building a domestic consensus. American leadership has been an obstacle. The French have, perhaps, never fully recovered from Verdun. Sections of the French press have presented the war as an invitation to die "pour les autres". German inhibitions, even about sending jets to Turkey, are attributable to memories of Nazi terror, Allied bombing and Soviet invasion. Each country's history plays a part — and the conclusions drawn are understandable. Neither France nor Germany has won a war since 1918; the Germans at least have no desire to do so now.

Yet the retention of military force in the arsenal of international law-enforcement is essential to the collective security of which the German foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, is the leading present-day advocate. Clausewitz's famous insight on the purposes of war should not be thrown out with the bathwater of military chauvinism.

As the war approaches its climax, the attitude of the two principal continental powers is naturally colouring British views on the future of the European Community. Other EC states weigh lightly in the balance: whether Belgium sells Britain ammunition or not matters little to the cause of federalism. Whether France is seen to be prosecuting the war with conviction, whether Germany is seen to be treating its allies as more than mere mercenaries, matters a great deal. This war is proving a harsh moral testbed for European cohesion.

## A BREED APART

When the Cabinet discusses the top salaries review body's recommendations today, ministers are likely to ponder the merits of 8 per cent versus 9 per cent, paid all at once, or in stages over the year. Ministers are pondering their own pay and that of their circle of advisers. There will be none of the savagery ministers are now willing on the private sector, to "squeeze inflation out of the economy" after the inflationary policies of the late 1980s. This is the moment of the year when public cynicism towards politicians reaches its deserved peak. A downward freeze would be in order, setting a public example. But there will be none.

As they find words to justify their generosity to themselves, they should at least take the opportunity to think more radically about the structure of the public service. In particular, they should consider throwing far more of its myriad closed shops open to competition and to the risks and rewards that go with it.

The civil service fills most of its posts from its own ranks. Once there, people either stay for ever, or if they leave for the private sector, they tend to leave for good. There is no risk and rewards are commensurately low. Generous index-linked pensions ensure that the job really is for life. Yet except in certain professional categories such as the judiciary, the nature of the work is advisory, administrative and managerial, skills not appreciably different from those widely found in the private sector.

Most public servants see themselves as a breed apart, developing a culture that excludes outsiders; those who come into contact with it find an overgrown public school, riddled with archaic rules and regulations, some meant to protect probity and the public purse, others — such as the idea that nobody can be a real ambassador who has not been a diplomat since

university — merely silly. Where private-sector managers tempt the fringes, such as in the health service, they do so in insufficient numbers to change attitudes that send many screaming back whence they came.

For top civil service jobs, higher rewards should be exchanged for higher risk. Posts of under-secretary grade and above should be advertised, and opened equally to those in or outside the public service. They should be for fixed-term contracts, with pay comparable with the private sector. This is happening in local government and in a number of quangos (usually against Treasury opposition). The new chief executive of Liverpool is getting £85,000, more than a permanent secretary in the civil service. The City of London is rumoured to be offering about £100,000 for a new chief executive.

Britain should be developing the free-floating managerial elite that exists in France, capable of moving from public to private sector and back throughout a career. The makings of such an elite is being formed from the graduates of offshore business schools and company traineeships. But its members tend to gravitate to consultancy or banking rather than into management, let alone management in the public sector.

Over the past decade of booming private-sector jobs, the public sector has been in retreat. The cream of Oxbridge graduates have gone to business or the City, not into Whitehall. As the chart on another page shows, this is despite the relative buoyancy of public-sector salaries and the security of public-sector jobs. This has been a bad thing in theory: a public sector should not grab the best young people. But it does suggest that paying public servants more is not crucial. The nature of a job fashioned in an age of empire is losing its appeal. A good public service needs good people, and will get them best in an open shop in a free market.

## RUNCIE THE RECONCILER

Defending the middle ground takes a peculiar and often unrecognised courage. Robert Runcie, who retires today after 11 years as the 102nd Archbishop of Canterbury, is a courageous man. His physical bravery was recognised years ago, with the award of the Military Cross for his gallantry in the Scots Guards. His moral courage in political battle has been questioned by his critics.

They have accused him of weak leadership of the church at a time of internal turmoil and secular radicalism. He is charged with vacillation, an eagerness to compromise, an aversion to clear-cut moral absolutes. He was indecisive in the debate on the ordination of women. He seemed mesmerised by the controversy over homosexual clergy and sat on a report he had commissioned. His centrism was seen as flannel. His moderation was true, but misses the point. Dr Runcie had the virtues as well as the vices of the archetypal wet in a Thatcherite age. He stood for tolerance, compassion and social responsibility when the nation seemed set on radical, uncompromising policies. His prickly relationship with Mrs Thatcher, the prime minister who appointed him, was epitomised in his refusal to celebrate a triumph at the thanksgiving service after the Falklands victory. The government had no time for his social liberalism. He had no sympathy for the selfishness that he saw in the social and political values of the 1980s.

Dr Runcie's overwhelming duty, as he saw it, was to hold the Church of England together. This he achieved. He did it only

just, and at a price, but he did it. If unity required procrastination on the ordination of women, he would delay. He struggled to avoid a split with the Anglican community overseas, especially with the American Episcopal church. Nor could he allow the conservatism of the Bishop of London and his fellow conservatives to mature into schism. He himself took time to make up his mind; he insisted the church do so too.

On homosexual clergy, his prevarication may have saved the Church from a witch-hunt. There is little doubt that his personal view was that homosexuality, though not a sin, was a handicap to a priest. His priority in dealing with the Bishop of Durham's doctrinal scepticism was to keep the debate within bounds. The motto of the cathedral school of St Albans, where he was bishop before his elevation, is *mediocritas firma*, the firm middle ground, the middle way not the mediocre. He was resolute in its defence.

The contempt of those demanding more absolutism, socially, theologically, spiritually, took its toll on Dr Runcie. The nadir of his archiepiscopate was the affair of the preface to *Crockford's Clerical Directory* in 1987 and the suicide of Dr Gareth Bennett. From then on, anguish was etched on Dr Runcie's face, intensified by his own four-year suffering for the hostage Terry Waite. His final sermon last Sunday was true to his search for the middle way, between the conflicting demands of a just war and a Christian conscience. There are no easy answers, he insisted. He would not give glib guidance or comfort. Dr Runcie embodies the agony of honest doubt, honestly declared.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Doubts and dissent over British policies in the Gulf

From Mr David Sinclair

Sir, I am becoming increasingly alarmed by the parallels being drawn in Britain between the Gulf conflict and the 1939-45 war. Before hostilities began, the talk was of Saddam Hussein as a Hitler, of war crimes and Nuremberg trials, of the "Desert Rats" being deployed, and so on. Now the talk is of censorship, internment, the stifling of dissent, supporting "our boys", and we are hearing again such slogans as "Careless talk costs lives".

Worse, the xenophobia which is never far below the surface in this country is flourishing in the open, with even government ministers insulting European countries which, for their own considered reasons, have not made the same military commitment that Britain has.

Let us be clear. This is 1991, not 1940, and what is taking place is not total war but a cold-blooded punitive expedition against a state that is judged seriously to have breached international law. There is no question of national survival to be addressed, except for the people of Kuwait and Iraq. The lives of the rest of us have not been placed on a war footing, and we are perfectly entitled to question in the normal way the appropriateness and wisdom of the policies of our governments. Expressing doubt or dissent in connection with the war does not imply disloyalty.

In the same way, our governments have an obligation to keep us fully informed of their intentions as far as it is possible without compromising military operations, and to seek our approval for their actions.

The British may remember fondly "their finest hour", but that is history now. Please let us not pretend that the Gulf war is a replay. To do so is merely to reinforce the impression in other countries that we are more interested in our past than in our present.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID SINCLAIR,  
16 Markwick Terrace,  
St Leonards, East Sussex.  
January 26.

From Mr John Weatherill

Sir, The notion that the use by minorities of their freedom to oppose government actions in war, or events leading to war, is an abuse of that freedom (on the assumption that it plays into the enemy's hands), is an insidious notion, all too apt to gain strength in repetition. To give ground to it in the present situation would endanger the very principles of democracy, losing us a moral advantage over a tyrant.

In her letter of January 25, Lady Olga Maitland, chairman of Families for Defence, expounds this notion once again, and implies a slur on Air Commodore Alistair Mackie, deputy chairman of CND, and on the Labour MPs who voted against the motion supporting Britain's forces in the Gulf. "What would be gained," she asks (had sanctions been given more chance), "other than a respite for Saddam Hussein to build up his forces?"

Lady Olga's question should be judged in the light of a "status report" (originating from US government sources) in the January 21 issue of *Time*, listing the effects of sanctions over the five months and nine days preceding January 15. Two of its more cogent conclusions were that imports of industrial goods, raw materials, semi-finished goods and machinery had been reduced by more than 90 per cent, and that Iraq's military effectiveness would begin to decline in six to twelve months.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN WEATHERILL,  
Wylly Head, Kilmington,  
Warminster, Wiltshire.  
January 26.

From Mr John Pickin

Sir, The pre-war assessment that sanctions against Iraq were not working should be reassessed. A great deal of what has been and is being destroyed will lead to an increased vulnerability for Iraq to a sanctions policy. The destruction of essential services generates a different degree of dependence on

imports. Spares to replace damaged electricity-generating capacity, for example, is not a shortfall which can be as easily made good as food shortages.

Yours etc,  
JOHN PICKIN,  
Keepers Cottage, Henshaw Lane,  
Siddington, Cheshire.  
January 25.

From Mr Gavin Konstam

Sir, If the war in the Gulf was undertaken with real reluctance by members of the coalition, this was surely because we perceived the Iraqi people as largely innocent of the crimes committed by their leadership. Thus, the success of the cruise missiles in "taking out" specific targets in Baghdad with minimum loss of life has brought no small relief to tender consciences in Britain, who feared that an old-style aerial bombardment would earn us the enduring hatred of the population.

Such a result, however, albeit unintended, has only been postponed. The guided missile will prove as indiscriminate in slaughter as carpet-bombing. The tactics of disruption have succeeded to an extent most of us never thought possible.

The utilities — telephones, electricity, water-supply and sewerage — are paralysed. We hear the citizens have to fetch water from the Tigris, because power-failure has made the taps run dry. They know — if we don't — that the threat is now cholera, typhoid and gastro-enteritis. Bemused by the struggle to survive in impossible circumstances, death awaits them just round the corner.

Speaking for at least one of the tender consciences, I ask what measures our government is taking to anticipate the wholly foreseeable effects of destroying the utilities of a modern metropolis.

Yours faithfully,  
GAVIN KONSTAM,  
9 Chapel Street,  
Belmont, Bolton, Lancashire.  
January 25.

### Dealing with mines

From Rear-Admiral Guy F. Llardet

Sir, Mr W. T. Potter (January 24) questions the technique of destroying floating mines by helicopter diver and remotely-controlled explosive charge as seen in the Gulf on television recently.

This is in fact a safer and more sure procedure. Rifle fire as used in the Second World War can penetrate a mine casing and leave it waterlogged and invisible but still dangerous. In other than calm seas it is very difficult, and one has to get quite close. These alternative techniques have been thoroughly researched and provided for.

On a larger point, international convention requires the mooring switch of a moored mine to short-circuit the batteries and render inert

a mine that has broken its mooring wire and become a "float". These conventions are not being observed in the Gulf, it seems.

Yours etc,  
GUY LLARDET,  
119 Escourt Road,  
Fulham, SW6.  
January 25.

From Mr Gordon Gutteridge

Sir, I would like to reinforce the point made by Mr W. T. Potter. The only occasion on which the risks he describes can be justified is if the mine is required for investigation as to how it functions.

Mines of this sort are usually laid in orderly "fields" outside enemy harbours. A free-floating, horned, mine is almost certainly automatically inoperative and heroic efforts

to fend one off from the bows of one's ship should belong to myth and the makers of epic films.

I was intimately involved in pulling enemy and friendly mines to pieces from 1941 to 1957. On one occasion a Grimsby trawler, not unusually, caught a German moored mine in its net. The enterprising skipper hauled it clear of the net and parked it safely on the afterdeck. Since he had been told that the horns were dangerous he knocked them all off with a sledgehammer, long before the naval mine-disposal party arrived.

Yours sincerely,  
GORDON GUTTERIDGE,  
Thatched Cottage, Pudding Lane,  
Headbourne Worthy,  
Winchester, Hampshire.  
January 25.

### Presence in Prague

From Mr James Potts

Sir, Having served as Director of the British Council in Prague from 1986 to 1989, I was surprised to read in the letter from the Headmaster of Abingdon School (January 17) that the British Council "has only recently begun operations in Prague".

The council had a thriving operation in Prague, Bratislava and Brno between 1945 and 1950, and although our staff have worked from the British Embassy since the early 1960s it has been well known to most Czechs and Slovaks for many years that the Cultural Section Office in Jungmannova Street is in fact the British Council.

Even in the "bad old days" there were nine council-recruited lecturers and teacher trainers in key institutions throughout the country, and a number of school exchanges with Britain were established to supplement the summer courses in both countries and the highly-valued book presentations. The programme may have been relatively modest but it was cost-effective and warmly appreciated by teachers, researchers, translators of

English literature, university staff and dissidents.

I have just returned from a planning visit to Prague in connection with a major new British Council initiative which will help to develop teacher training, English teaching and access to British books and educational materials through five or six major projects. The number of our staff in Prague is increasing, and building on our long-established presence we are poised to make a major impact right across the country.

It may appear to some that these new initiatives have been slow in coming, but the planning phase has corresponded to Czech and Slovak needs. Other countries have perhaps acted more hastily, and a number of programmes have failed through the lack of careful planning and suitably qualified personnel. What the British Council needs now are bigger and better premises, and a decision on this is keenly awaited from the Czechoslovak government.

Yours sincerely,  
JAMES POTTS (Head, East and Central Europe Department),  
The British Council,  
10 Spring Gardens, SW1.  
January 25.

### Use of libraries

From Mrs Margaret Bark

Sir, It is probably true that increased funding to libraries leads to increased usage. It is almost certainly true that the converse is the case. Your report (January 25) quoted

Haringey as having the second lowest lending rate among metropolitan areas. The reasons for this are probably that Haringey has consistently underfunded libraries over the last ten years, has the second lowest per capita spending level on libraries in London, and has severely reduced hours of service at branches. The council is now considering proposals that would leave Haringey with only two main libraries and a service to housebound residents to cover the entire borough. Thousands of adults and children would have no local access to library services.

Only three months ago, plans to close all the small branch libraries were reversed because of a concerted campaign by residents. If we are unsuccessful this time, I believe that Haringey will be bottom of the league when the next set of statistics are prepared.

Yours sincerely,  
MARGARET BARK,  
(Chairman, Alexandra Park Library action group),  
49 Thirlmere Road,  
Muswell Hill, N10.  
January 27.

### Planning appeals

From Mr John D. Dagg

Sir, Mr Tom Berman (January 24) finds it amusing that the lawyers protest too much in connection with the proposed clause 24 of the Planning and Compensation Bill. He has no sympathy for "developers", their planning applications and their desire to challenge refusals of permission at enquiry.

Mr Berman has a distorted view of "developers" and development that is all too common. Very many appeals heard at enquiries concern relatively small-scale proposals put forward by householders and small businessmen of modest means. The development proposed is often, however, of great importance to individuals and small firms. Frequently its assessment by the planning authority has turned on an arguable weighing of the relevant planning considerations.

The costs of appeal are already high — there is no legal aid for planning appeals and enquiries. Unreasonable behaviour in connection with an enquiry can already be penalised by an order that the appellant pays part or all of the local planning authority's costs.

Clause 24 should be deleted from the Bill.  
Yours faithfully,  
JOHN D. DAGG,  
Lamb Building, Temple, EC4.  
January 27.

### Spelling in exams

From Mr James S. Dimmock

Sir, The education secretary must become more objective in his desire to improve spelling standards but I feel that your readers are not helping.

Mr Dobson (January 22) appears to want only engineers who can spell at the expense of losing better engineers who cannot. With distinct examinations you could identify the mediocre engineer with, for example, excellent English or the brilliant engineer with poor English.

Mr Nutall (also January 22), on the other hand, would have us all bleached or blown-up for the sake of liberal spelling. It might not be too serious to spell "chloride" as "cloride", but does he consider the possible consequences of confusion between "chloride", "chlorite" or "chlorate"?

Technological spelling must be perfect, otherwise, for the sake of our aspiring youth, leave perfection in English to the English paper.

Yours sincerely,  
JAMES S. DIMMOCK,  
Riversdale, Widbrook Road,  
Maidenhead, Berkshire.

From Dr Alan Cock

Sir, Mr Aidan Reynolds's hypothetical medical student (January 25) would very soon learn the vital difference between hypo- and hyper- and take appropriate precautions. Any ambiguity would be far more

### Threat to nuclear research facility

From Dr Wilton N. Catford

Sir, The government's controlling body for physics research, the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC), is threatening to withdraw its funding for British-based nuclear physics, thus closing the Daresbury Laboratory's nuclear structure facility in Cheshire and ending all fundamental nuclear physics research in this country (report, January 24).

Paradoxically, Britain is an acknowledged world leader in this field, and the country also benefits from the direct medical, environmental and industrial applications of the techniques developed in basic research.

The funding threat by SERC is made without any assessment of scientific merit or community benefits. It appears as though nuclear structure research has just ended up in the wrong column in the accounting books. The government should explain why the SERC is contemplating arbitrary decisions that would have a terminal effect on essential science, and should then make certain that the threatened coup to end basic nuclear research does not eventuate.

Yours faithfully,  
W. N. CATFORD,  
University of Surrey,  
Department of Physics,  
Guildford,  
Surrey GU2 5XH.  
January 25.

### Oxleas Wood threat

From Mr Peter Bottomley, MP for Eatham (Conservative)

Sir, May I add to the report (January 25) of the wildlife trust meeting at Oxleas Wood in Eatham. It should not be news that I praise public transport and that the approach road to the proposed east London bridge will be most damaging to the ancient wood. I said the same in 1983 and consistently during service at the Department of Transport.

At the trust gathering I also spoke in favour of the A3 road proposals which I considered would on balance enhance the Devils Punchbowl, not detract from it. As usual, an independent inspector will hear the arguments and come to a conclusion.

In general that is a welcome part of the procedures. As minister, it was easier to achieve a higher importance for environmental issues.

At Oxleas Wood, the decision was taken to favour the needs of Newham and Docklands. My constituency interest will suffer.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER BOTTOMLEY  
(Under-Secretary of State  
for Transport, 1986-9),  
House of Commons.  
January 25.

likely to arise from careless speech, or from the notoriously poor handwriting of many medical practitioners, than from vagaries of spelling.

The assertion that "you cannot separate spelling from meaning" is just another profoundly erroneous truism. In the huge majority of instances the writer's meaning is crystal clear despite deviations in spelling: as with most other languages, English orthography incorporates a high degree of redundancy.

Our present standard spelling is perhaps uniquely un-phonetic and replete with tricky irregularities. While we should encourage orthodox spelling, we should not seriously penalise those who do not follow every tedious quirk of conventionally "correct" spelling.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN COCK,  
University of Southampton,  
Department of Biology,  
Building 44,  
Southampton SO9 5NH.  
January 26.

From Mr R. F. Kirk

Sir further to the correspondence today place of spelling in examinations always thought that it was a greater handicap to understanding why has Mr Clarke ignored this poor spelling should be regarded no more seriously than inadequate punctuation yours faithfully roger f kirk headmaster easingwold school easingwold w York January 25

### Padding it out

From Professor Emeritus Philip Rhodes

Sir, Mutes and beams has not Mathew Parris in asking why the news always lasts half an hour (... and moreover, January 28) blinded himself to the fact that journalists, even on *The Times*, pad out and cut their pieces to fill the space available?

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP RHODES,  
1 Wakerley Court, Wakerley,  
Oakham, Leicestershire.

### Cars v. trains

From the Reverend Geoffrey C. Lee

Sir, My brother Father Donald Bird (January 22) is right in asserting that God invented railways. Genesis 1:25: "And God created every creeping thing." Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY C. LEE,  
63 Hotham Road, Putney, SW15.  
January 26.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**SANDRINGHAM**  
January 30: The Queen, Honorary Air Commodore, visited Royal Air Force Sandhurst this afternoon and was received by Group Captain Graham Sturup (Station Commander).  
Her Majesty met the families of Royal Air Force personnel engaged in Operation Desert Storm, both in the Gulf and at the Station.  
Lady Abel Smith, Sir Kenneth Scott and Wing Commander David Walker, RAF were in attendance.  
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by The Prince of Wales at the State Funeral of King Olav V of Norway, which was held in Oslo Cathedral, today.

**CLARENCE HOUSE**  
January 30: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was represented by The Princess Royal at the State Funeral of King Olav V which was held in Oslo Cathedral, today.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
January 30: The Princess of Wales received Mr Jeffrey Baines of the Sussex Air Centre, at Kensington Palace, W8.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
January 30: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Strathmore and Kinghorne, Colonel-in-Chief XV/XIX, The King's Royal Hussars, this afternoon received Lieutenant-Colonel Tresham Gregg on relinquishing the appointment of Commanding Officer of the Regiment.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
January 30: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own), today received Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Piers Brough on relinquishing the appointment as Colonel of the Regiment and Major General John Friedberger on assuming the appointment.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester this evening opened The Passionate Eye, an Exhibition of Paintings from the E. G. Bührle Collection, at the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London, W1.

Major Nicholas Barne and Miss Suzanne Marland were in attendance.

**YORK HOUSE**  
ST JAMES'S PALACE  
January 30: The Duchess of Kent, Patron of the Liddle Collection, this evening visited the Gallipoli Exhibition at the Barbican Centre, London, EC2.

Miss Peter Wilmet-Sirwell was in attendance.

**THATCHED HOUSE LODGE**  
January 30: Princess Alexandra, this afternoon opened the British College of Acupuncture at 8 Hunter Street, London WC1.

The Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness, Chancellor of Lancaster University, was present at a Dinner given this evening by the Members of the Board of Lancaster University Development Campaign, to mark the launch of the Unit of Vegetation Science, at Brooks's, London SW1.

Miss Mona Mitchell was in attendance.

The Queen of The Netherlands celebrates her birthday today.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.J. Baines and Miss M.N. Clarke  
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of the late Mr J.R. Baines and Mrs Dorset, and Miss M.N. Clarke, daughter of Captain and Mrs M.M. Clarke, of Hindhead, Surrey.

Mr N.J. Baldock and Miss V.L. van Smit  
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr Brian Baldock, of Donnington, Berkshire, and Miss V.L. van Smit, daughter of Ash Down, Surrey, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Smit, of Lechlade, Gloucestershire.

Mr T.C. Falconer and Miss U.M. Brooke Johnson  
The engagement is announced between Toby, son of Mr and Mrs John Falconer, of Slad, Gloucestershire, and Miss U.M. Brooke Johnson, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Sir John Brooke Johnson, of Richmond.

Mr P.J.S. Knight and Miss A.C. Bittles  
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs F.S. Knight, of Blackheath, London, and Alison, daughter of Mr and Mrs W.J. Bittles, of Fleet, Hampshire.

Mr J.M. Mates and Miss F.M. Bennett  
The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr Michael Mates, of Petersfield, Hampshire, and Miss F.M. Bennett, daughter of Mr and Mrs Neville, of Farnham, Surrey, and Fiona, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Bennett, of Chislehurst, Kent.

Mr C.F. Peart and Miss E.J. Williamson  
The engagement is announced between Freddie, only son of Mrs Sally Peart, of Hurworth-on-Tees, Co Durham, and Miss E.J. Williamson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Peart, and Emma, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Williamson, also of Hurworth.

Mr N.M. Savage and Miss S.C.S. Mayer  
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Mr Michael J. Savage, of Chobham, Surrey, and Miss S.C.S. Mayer, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gina Isaac, of West Horsley, Surrey, and Sian, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael G. Mayer, of Chobham, Surrey.

## Queen to visit United States

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will pay official visits to Miami and Tampa Bay, Florida, and Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio, Texas, after their state visit to Washington DC in May, it was announced yesterday.

## University news

**Oxford**  
Mrs Ruth L. Deech, vice-principal, fellow and tutor in law, has been elected principal of St Anne's College, Oxford, from October 1, on the retirement of Dr Claire Palley. Mrs Deech has been a member of the college for 20 years.

**London King's College**  
Appointment to chairs  
Irving Stuart Benjamin, BSc, MChB, MD, to the chair of surgery from December, 1990. He joins King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry from the Royal Postgraduate Medical School.  
Jill Macleod Clark, BSc, PhD, to the chair of nursing studies from July, 1990.  
Christopher Marriot, DSc, PhD, to the chair of pharmacology from June, 1990. He joins King's from Brighton Polytechnic.  
John Martin, MD, FRCP, to the British Heart Foundation chair of cardiovascular science from October, 1990. He joins from the Wellcome Foundation.  
Colin Roberts, MSc, PhD, CEng, to the chair of medical engineering and physics from January, 1990.

**Richard Whish, BA, BCL**  
will be the chair of law from January, 1991. He joins from Bristol University.

**Promotions to professor**  
Olin John Bushnell, BSc, PhD, from reader to professor of pure mathematics from June, 1990.  
Martin Neville Hughes, BSc, PhD, DSc, CChem, from reader to professor of chemistry from May, 1990.  
Andrew Neil Porter, MA, PhD, from reader to professor of history from October, 1990.  
Garth Swanson, BSc(Eng), PhD, DIC, from reader to professor of physical electronics from October, 1990.  
Alexander Parker Mowat, MB, ChB, DRCOG, DCH, to professor of paediatric hepatology from August, 1990.  
John Moxham, BSc, MD, from senior lecturer to professor of thoracic medicine from June, 1990.

**Appointments to readership**  
Stephen Sear, BA, MA, PhD, to the chair of law from January, 1991. He joins from the Royal Society.  
Celia Hopwood, BSc, MSc, PhD, to the chair of computer science from January, 1991. She joins from the Royal Society.

## OBITUARIES

## AIR VICE-MARSHAL WILLIAM SYKES

Air Vice-Marshal William Sykes, OBE, a former president of the Ordnance Board and later general manager for British Aerospace in Oman, died on January 28 aged 70. He was born on March 14, 1920.

BILL Sykes was always cited by the RAF as a perfect example of what a boy entrant could achieve. He joined from Barnsley Technical College in 1936 as an apprentice and rose to become not only an air vice-marshal but one of the most respected engineer officers in the service.

His achievement was the more remarkable because he was not naturally gifted academically. When at the age of 16 he passed into the apprentice school at Halton, Bucks, his name was well down towards the bottom of the list. He was, however, a diligent pupil who applied himself so well to every job that when he passed out in 1938, with the shadow of war already hanging over Europe, he was among the leading 20 of his entry. This entry which was the 33rd at Halton (founded by Lord Trenchard to groom fitters for the RAF) was one of the most famous of all time. The 33 Club, whose president Bill Sykes became, claims that hardly an air operation was carried out in the war without a member of that entry being there.

None however climbed as high as William Sykes, a gentle



giant of a man who won boxing medals at Halton and bore a crooked jaw for the rest of his life as a result. After serving first as a fitter with 51 Squadron then equipped with Armstrong Whitworth Whitely medium bombers in York-

shire, he won a commission in 1942 and spent the rest of the war as an engineer officer with coastal command, serving in such places as Invergordon, Pembroke Dock, Gibraltar and Reykjavik.

During the period 1945 to 1960 he served successively at the Marine Aircraft Experimental Establishment, the Royal Aircraft Establishment, the Central Servicing Development Establishment (CSDE) at 2nd Tactical Airforce, Germany, and on the RAF's operational requirements staff. Between 1960 and 1972 his appointments included a return to the CSDE, postings to the Far East and to the Near East Air Force headquarters in Cyprus and a period as director of mechanical engineering RAF. He became vice-president of the Ordnance Board, which has responsibility for the safety of munitions, in 1972 before succeeding to the tri-service job of president two years later.

When he retired in 1975 it was said that after the posts he had held and the specialist courses he had attended no one knew more about the technical side of the RAF than he did. Shortly before his retirement he had been elected a fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society in 1974.

Air Vice-Marshal Sykes was then recruited by British Aerospace as its general manager in Oman for the next 10 years. He had lately done voluntary work for Age Concern in Fylde, Lancashire.

His first wife, Jean, whom he had married in 1946, died in 1985. He is survived by their son and daughter and by his second wife, Suzanne, whom he married in 1986.

## DAVID RUSSELL

David Clark Russell, OBE, consultant in tropical agriculture, has died in Alderney, Channel Islands, aged 81.

DAVID Russell devoted more than 50 years of a colourful life to tropical agricultural products in India, East and West Africa, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Australia. He was acknowledged internationally as an authority on the cashew industry. In East Africa he was known as "Bwana Korosh" (Mr Cashew Nut) and in West Africa, "Papa Cashew". His enthusiasm, energy and approachability made him in constant demand (in April last year he spent some time in Nigeria) and a source of leadership and enterprise. A knowledge of several indigenous languages in addition to French and German ensured success in his many contacts and showed a typical concern for detail. Physical inconvenience at the site of operations and frustrations with officialdom were regular accompaniments in his many travels to remote areas and were accepted in the tasks involved. He was the author of monographs on cashew nut processing, papers for symposia and learned societies, and booklets

on cultivation for tropical farmers. Impromptu lectures were given in the field and on formal occasions as at the University of Nigeria. In Coton d'Ivoire he had been married 30 years earlier he was a prominent contributor to the first cashew symposium in 1979.

David Russell was born in Deadwood, Black Hills, South Dakota. After education at Cranleigh School, Surrey, he entered Imperial College, London, where he studied physics, chemistry and applied mechanics. He was president of the union from 1931 to 1932 and obtained a BSc. Professionally he thought of himself as a chemical engineer. In 1933 he began work for Peirce Leslie and Co, East India merchants—an engagement which lasted for 22 years—concerned with coffee, pepper, cardamom, coir and was assigned to cashew nut operations beginning what was to evolve into a life-long association with this somewhat intractable natural product. With W. Jeffries he developed the plant equipment which constitutes essentially the present day hot oil bath process for shelling raw cashew nuts so as to obtain both the uncontaminated edible

kernel and the by-product, the phenolic cashew nut-shell liquid contained in the porous shell, a raw material used subsequently by other organisations after polymerisation with formaldehyde primarily for the production of friction dusts. These have important components of certain brake and clutch linings for the automobile industry. During the second world war he was seconded by GHQ, New Delhi, as director of ordnance laboratories, Cawnpore where he was responsible for the testing of general stores for the armed forces in India and for the Burma campaign. In 1945 he was appointed OBE and rejoined Peirce Leslie in South India.

From 1954 he began a survey covering Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika which involved in practice the encouragement of farmers to grow cashews as a cash crop and the setting up of processing factories for their crops. This activity saw a great expansion in the industry particularly in Mozambique in the late Fifties where the first large scale factory was installed leading finally at a later period to the cashew being the principal export of that country. In 1965 the FAO

of the United Nations commissioned him to organise a plantation and factory complex at Enugu, Eastern Nigeria. The secession of the region in 1966 by Col Ojukwu necessitated a rapid evacuation by Russell across the River Niger and the mobilisation of native craft to rescue cars and equipment. Work was continued in the Western region at Ibadan. In 1970 he returned to Tanzania where for four years before he was instrumental in securing a \$40 million loan for the cashew industry from the World Bank. He toured the country to establish small-scale processing centres. Later many further feasibility studies were made with the Tropical Products Institute, Crown Agents and many organisations relating to interests in Dahomey, Ivory Coast, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Senegal where most recently a large factory was set up. He continued active in the interests of tropical agriculture, notably in cashew, and will be remembered with respect and affection by many people.

He leaves his widow, Pamela.

## Retiring chairman springs to the defence of farming

By JOHN YOUNG

A "STRANGE mythology" had developed recently which equated all large scale farming with destruction and pollution, Sir Derek Barber, chairman of the Countryside Commission, said yesterday.

With a frightening totality, so-called intensive farming was labelled simplistically as anti-social and inimical to the health of soil, plants and animals. The public should understand that fertilisers and fungicides were as important for putting their breakfast cereals on the table as petrol was for their cars.

It was important, too, to challenge those who referred to the desirability of farming systems with lower inputs

without definition. "Do they mean lower inputs than those which optimise farm profitability?" he asked. "A better recipe for economic disaster and probable rural deterioration it would indeed be difficult to prescribe."

Environmental care policies could not be based on myths and wishful thinking. In all the debate about the future of farming, no one seemed to be enunciating with any clarity the requirement for a competitive, cost-effective UK agriculture as a prized national asset.

Sir Derek is shortly to retire as chairman of the commission after 10 years. A farmer himself, he is also president of the Royal Society

for the Protection of Birds, and is recognised as a leading authority on conservation matters and as one who has strived to keep the peace between the green environmental lobby and those who make their living from the land.

He was speaking at the launch in London of a new company, Booker Countryside, of which he is chairman and which will coordinate the environmental policies of the Booker group's companies engaged in farming, forestry and landscaping. Other members of the board include Professor Chris Baines, the environmentalist and broadcaster, and James Douglas, former director general of the Country Landowners Association.

## European award for Wicken Fen

WICKEN Fen nature reserve near Ely, Cambridgeshire, the only readily accessible remnant of the great fens of East Anglia, has won European recognition (John Shaw writes).

It has been awarded a diploma of merit by the Europa Nostra organisation, a confederation of conservation groups spread throughout Europe. The award will be announced today.

The 600-acre fen is owned by the National Trust and was one of its first reserves in 1899. The acreage has steadily grown through gifts and it has become an important international wetland reserve for birds.

The award recognises three aspects of the trust's work at

## Luncheons

**CBI**  
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by Mr Sheriff Walford, was the principal guest at a luncheon of the London region of the Confederation of British Industry held yesterday at Guildhall. Mr Stephen Haykian, regional chairman, was the host and Mr Anders Ljung, Vice-President of the European Bank for Reconstruction, and Sir Brian Corby, President of the CBI, were the speakers.

**Carlton Club**  
Professor Laurence Martin, Director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Political Committee of the Carlton Club held yesterday at the club. Sir William van Straubenzee, chairman of the committee, presided and Mr Giles Chichester also spoke.

**Tallow Chandeliers' Company**  
The Master, Mr Peter Ensor, presented the Tallow Chandeliers' Medals and Awards to British Gas Young Employees at luncheon at the Tallow Chandeliers' Hall yesterday. The Master, Wardens and Court also received Mr Robert Evans, CBE, Chairman and Chief Executive of British Gas, the Regional Chairman and other representatives of British Gas.

## Birthdays today

Professor Sir Eric Ash, rector, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, 63; Lieutenant Commander Sir Richard Buckley, former royal navy, 63; Mr Christopher Claxworthy, company director, former athlete and MP, 60; Mr Robert Claxworthy, sculptor, 63; Mr Phil Collins, rock singer and actor, 40; Lord Nicholas Gordon Lennox, diplomat, 60; Mr Miron Grindea, editor, ADAM International Review, 82; Air Marshal Sir Christopher Harley, 78; Air Commodore Lord Harvey of Presbury, 85; Air Marshal Sir John Kemball, 52; Mr Norman Mailer, author, 68; Miss Jean Simmons, actress, 62; the Rev Lord Soper, 88; Brigadier Sir Alexander Stanger, 92; Dame Freya Stark, traveller and writer, 98; Sir Michael Wilford, diplomat, 69.

## PROF H.S. OFFLER

Hilary Seton Offler, professor emeritus of medieval history in the University of Durham, died on January 24 aged 77. He was born on February 3, 1913.

H. S. OFFLER—Seton to those privileged to be on first-name terms—achieved eminence in two historical fields: medieval political thought and north-east England in the middle ages. In each his largest-scale work was the edition of texts. He edited, partly with collaborators, three volumes of political writings of the fourteenth-century Franciscan philosopher, William of Ockham (known for the dictum called Ockham's Razor), published between 1940 and 1974; and his edition of *Durham Episcopate Charters 1071-1152* was published by the Surtees Society in 1968. Everything he wrote was to use his own words, "historians' history"—the only sort that matters: the meticulous scholarship, particularly on texts, that he behind all wider historical interpretation.

Brought up in Herefordshire, Offler spent the years 1931 to 1940 at Cambridge, where he took firsts in history (parts I and II) and theology (part III), won the Lightfoot scholarship in 1934 and as a research fellow at Emmanuel wrote a thesis on Louis of Bavaria, Holy Roman emperor, and the papacy, 1330-47. This was accepted for a doctorate which, characteristically, he never actually took. As an artillery officer from 1940 to 1946 he served in the Western Desert, spent three months as a liaison officer with a French flying column in Tunisia and was in France and Germany from D-Day onwards. He never spoke of his wartime experiences, which were deeply traumatic but which included the award of the Croix de Guerre. He was appointed to a lectureship at Bristol University, then, in 1947, to a readership at Durham. There he spent the rest of his life. He became Durham's first professor of medieval history in 1956 and retired in 1978. He was elected a fellow of the British Academy in 1974.

At Durham Offler continued work on medieval political thought. An early by-product was his contribution to *A Short History of Switzerland* (with E. Bonjour and G. R. Pottier), published in 1952. Meanwhile he had begun a search on the medieval northeast on which his first article appeared in 1950. Work continued in both fields throughout his life. A fourth volume of Ockham's works was in preparation and recent articles include "Murder on Framwellgate Bridge", on the

politics behind a Durham incident of 1318. All his work displays great erudition and concern for accuracy. His penetrating, often mordant, comments made him a frequent and formidable reviewer for learned journals. He was naturally familiar with German work on medieval political theory, and clearly felt particularly at home with the exactness and technical mastery of German historical scholarship.

In building up the Durham history department in a time of expansion Offler applied forcefulness and a clear view of what he sought. He saw, not quantity, of research output as the yardstick of academic excellence. His insistence on the highest possible standards in teaching, appointments to posts and examination performance is legendary. His strong personal control of the department comprised much benevolence and he took great interest in the welfare of colleagues and individual students, whose examination marks he could long recall. Typically, colleagues discovered only after many years that the annual examiners' lunch, assumed to be officially funded, was paid for from his own pocket. He disliked delegating work, even the typing of letters, and for long himself interviewed all the department's prospective students.

A somewhat ponderous way of speech could not conceal the fact that Offler was disturbingly quick-witted, acute and shrewd. He was also kindly, widely learned and had a sense of humour. He was unduly modest about his own contribution to scholarship. Unashamedly old-fashioned in his life-style, he kept abreast of developments in historical research and was fully receptive to new techniques and ideas. His sturdy figure, with stick and pipe, had long been a familiar sight in Durham.

His marriage in 1951, to Betty Gifford Jackson, was patently happy. She and their two sons survive him.



## PROF JOHN WISEMAN

Professor Richard Pear writes:

MY FIRST recollection of Jack Wiseman (obituary, January 23) was when he as a first year LSE student corrected me in the class (which I was taking as a first year assistant lecturer) on the legal position of police officers. He

had read *Fisher v Oldham Corporation* 1930 more carefully than I had.

My other memories of Jack Wiseman concern the LSE staff cricket matches in which he would bowl his slow ones, trundling up to the wicket in the manner of the late Dick Tyldsley of Lancashire.

## Memorial service

**Major-General Norman Wheeler**  
Prince Michael of Kent, President of the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation, was represented by Colonel Michael Farmer at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Major-General Norman Wheeler held yesterday in the Chapel of the Order of the British Empire, St Paul's Cathedral.

The Dean of St Paul's officiated, assisted by the Rev Christopher Mann, Canon John Halliburton and Father Aquinas.

**Major-General Roger Wheeler**, son, Colonel of the Royal Irish Rangers, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Neil Wheeler, brother, read the lessons. Major-General H.E.N. Bradin read the Royal Ulster Rifles Regimental Collect and Major-General James Majury gave an address.

Among those present were: Mrs Wheeler (widow), Mr and Mrs C. Donovan (son-in-law) and daughter, Mrs Roger Wheeler (daughter-in-law), Mr Tim Donovan, Miss Caitlin Donovan, Christopher and Amie Donovan (grandchildren), Lady (Neil) Wheeler (sister-in-law) and Lady Pope (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mr Julian Wheeler, Mr Nicholas Wheeler, Lady (Richard) Wheeler, Mr and Mrs Graham Coulson, Major Leslie Smallman.

Lord Kitchener of Kharoum (Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund) (Chief of the General Staff) and Lady Chapple, General Sir Thomas Pearson, Lieutenant-General Sir Napier Crookenden (also representing the vice-president, Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation), Air Chief Marshal Sir Lewis Hodges, Sir Reginald Hibbert, Sir James Henry, Sir Kenneth Bradshaw, Sir Jamie Flanagan, Lady Nixon.

**Society and Lord Roberts** Workshops. Major-General Robin Brockbank, Major-General Stewart Green, Major-General Michael Forrester, Major-General James J. S. Warren, Major-General J. D. Lunt, Major-General and Mrs John Woollett, Major-General George Crookenden, Major-General and Mrs Corran Purdon, Major-General John Hopkins.

Brigadier B.T.V. Cowey (The Welch Regiment), Brigadier and Mrs D.C. Blomfield-Smith, Brigadier Donald MacIntyre, Brigadier H. Millman (Army Brigadier), Brigadier with Colonel T. Illingworth (Eastern region), Brigadier Anne Field, Brigadier and Mrs M.N.S. McCord, Air Commodore Kit Carson, Colonel Bernard Irwin (London Irish Rifles Club) and Special Forces Clubs and Mrs Irwin, Colonel T.L. Laister.

Mr Michael Mitchell (chief executive, J.E. Beale, also representing the chairman) with Mr W.D. Hood (deputy chief executive), Mrs E. Beale, Mrs Ronald Beale and Mr Simon Beale; Mr Howard Lilley (deputy chairman, Eaden Lilley), Mr Charles F. Wegge (Prosser (Wegge-Prosser and Farmer), Mrs J.H.S. Majury, Mr Simon Majury, Mrs H.E.W. Bredin, Mrs J.P. Reidy, Mrs Michael Tillotson, Mr John de Courcy Ling, Mr Norman Davies, Mr E.E. Bental, Mr John Blatch, Mr and Mrs Alan Hill, Mrs J. Morrison and Mr G.J. Jenkins.

## Sir Ian Trethowan

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Ian Trethowan, Chairman of Thames Television, Chairman of the Horace Betting Levy Board and former Director General of the BBC, will be held at the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, on Tuesday, March 5, 1991, at 4.30.

Admission will be by ticket and written applications, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, should be made by Monday, February 25, to: Roger Cary, BBC, Room 281, 1-2 Marylebone High Street, London, W1A 1AR. Tickets will be posted on February 27 and 28.







# How nature will lick the Gulf slick

Tiny microbes are already breaking down the hydrocarbons in Saddam's oil spill. Brian Ford explains how the purification process works

Humans have wrestled with oil spillages for a century. Other beings have tackled oil for hundreds of millions of years, and it is they, not we, who will rid the Gulf of its pollution.

Claims that the Gulf's ecology will be "destroyed for decades" take no account of the microscopic life forms for which oil is food and drink. What is more, they are likely to clean it up much more rapidly than predictions on television and in parliament suggest.

Birds, corals and coastal mammals such as the sea cow will, of course, suffer, but the slick now threatening Saudi Arabia's beaches is good news to forms of life we rarely stop to consider.

The Gulf teems with colonies of microbes. These bacteria and microscopic algae are the starting point in the food chains of the warm Gulf waters. Plankton feed on them, and it is the plankton that nurture the more familiar life forms that drive the marine communities.

The bacteria and microscopic algae reproduce and continually repopulate the sea water. Every one of these translucent bacteria is smaller than a red blood corpuscle and 200 of them would be needed to stretch a millimetre. They can double in number every hour or two. They abound in the Gulf simply because it is an enclosed sea.

Waste materials pouring in from the Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia and Iran, are rich in raw materials, which the microbes recycle. Among the substances for which microbes have evolved are petrochemicals. Crude oil has seeped into the Gulf since it formed, and when microbes first developed a taste for petrochemicals mankind did not even exist.

The use by microbes of hydrocarbons as a source of food is not so different from the way higher forms of life use carbohydrates. Both are energy-rich compounds containing

carbon and hydrogen and both form water and carbon dioxide when broken down.

The organisms capable of producing the change are abundant in nature. The fresh earthy smell of a newly dug field is the odour of actinomycetes, many species of which devour oil. *Mycobacterium* is best known as the genus of bacteria that causes tuberculosis or leprosy, but there are other species of *mycobacterium* that inhabit the soil and many of these degrade oil too.

*Cladosporium* lives so successfully in oil that aircraft have to be designed to keep it at bay or it will foul their fuel-tanks, while *desulfurovibrio* is so active in oil wells it can etch through solid steel.

In these contexts, bacteria cause engineers practical problems, but they are merely doing the job they perform in nature — degrading oil and recycling it. Since the first drop of oil spilled from the Mina al-Ahmedi site these microbes have been at work, setting in train a huge reclamation process that dwarfs anything that human technology can achieve.

The reports warning that the ecosystem of the Gulf is at an end and that the shores are irredeemably damaged are not the first to paint a gloomy picture of mankind's assault on nature.

When the Torrey Canyon ran aground in 1967, the world was told that Cornwall's beaches were finished, that they would take 40 years to recover. Yet most of the beaches were clear by the end of that year.

There can be no direct comparison. The Atlantic approaches are stormy, so oil slicks are broken down, while the Gulf is enclosed. Warmer seas, however, could increase the growth of the microbes considerably and, as oil is a natural component of the Arabian seas, the right microbes may well be more readily available.

The Mina al-Ahmedi pollution is at least three times larger than the



Waiting for nature to clean-up: a US soldier reflected in oil on the beach near the Saudi/Kuwait border

Torrey Canyon spill. But experience tells us that the Gulf will recover, probably within three years. There was a huge oil spill there during the Iran-Iraq war, comparable in size to the present one, but its effects were not permanent. Even in the cold waters of Alaska, damaged by the Exxon Valdez oil spill, observers have been encouraged by the speed at which some areas have been cleaned by the natural microbe scavengers.

Experiments in Alaska have shown that recovery times can be halved by supplying fertilisers so that the growth rates of the microbes can be maximised. Specially bred bacteria, shipped out from Britain and the United States, may be used to speed up the process in the Gulf.

An additional benefit of microbial action is that it breaks down the toxic chemicals in crude oil, leaving minerals that nourish the sea grasses

on which the sea cow feeds. Sulphates, produced by the microbial breakdown of sulphur in the slick, will help plant life to re-establish itself.

There is a certain hope for a future in which such marvels of nature feed on war debris. When coral and fish have fed on microbes proliferating on the results of Saddam Hussein's environmental weaponry, perhaps we can give this unseen world its due.

## The computer that reads your writing

Some machines may eventually work without the need for keyboards

Small notepad computers that do away with a keyboard by using an electronic tablet and a pen that recognises handwriting could be widely used during the next few years.

Although the idea is simple, variations in people's handwriting make the technology required extremely complicated. Manufacturers have been spurred on by a potentially huge market that they hope will introduce computers to millions of people who have never used them before.

Along with voice recognition, the ability to write in a way that a computer can understand would be in great demand if the technique can be made to work at a low enough price.

The current emphasis has been on using picture-based symbols to make the information displayed on screens look less disconcerting, but the new

and large amounts of computer memory are required in order to guess at what a whole word is, rather than just checking to see which character a user's squiggle most closely resembles.

But the demand is shown by a basic machine from Grid Computer Systems already on sale — described as a sort of electronic clipboard — which is finding favour with people needing to fill out forms, especially if they have to stand up or move around.

Customers in Britain include the West Yorkshire police, who use the computers for electronic data collection at the scene of a crime, and the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, which uses them to replace a paper form normally handwritten by the surgeon in the operating theatre.

For these specific uses the ability to use an electronic stylus to move symbols

### Technology could become as easy to use as writing on a piece of a paper

around a screen, electronically tick a box or choose from a menu of options is as important as the ability to recognise handwriting. In Japan, Sony and Canon sell similar computers that will recognise carefully drawn characters. When the

systems start to accept cursive writing, a development expected within three years, the industry predicts that such electronic notepads will become as common as appointments books or personal organisers.

The technique should appeal to those who are considered as pencil-and-paper-orientated and either unwilling or, if highly mobile, unable to use a keyboard.

Such computers could also become acceptable in situations such as business meetings, where the clicking keyboard of a laptop computer is intrusive.

Keyboards will still predominate, however, as they are far faster for many operations than writing out even an abbreviated command legibly.

MATTHEW MAY

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## A gun for a hero

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Brian Alderson

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THE setting of AK is an imagined country — not a thousand miles from Nigeria — and the narrative intertwines the adventures of a boy-commando from the bush with a political saga of coup and counter-coup. Paul Kagami is the adopted son of freedom-fighter Michael Kagami, and when Michael is brought to power and then ousted, Paul seeks to become the agent of his release and, thereby, the liberator of Nagala itself.

In the first half of the book, Paul is very much at centre stage, maturing from tense apprentice-revolutionary to master of improvised strategies. With three companions (including, of course, a Resourceful Girl) he engages in a classic Journey of Escape, and if their adventures are more gripping than anything devised by Balzac, the Brave, then this is because of Dickinson's more refined command of psychological and physical realities. The best evidence is seen in the AK of the title: Paul Kagami's batter-gun, "the airborne model with the folding butt". You sense not only that Peter Dickinson could strip one of these down and reassemble it in about 20 seconds flat, but that Paul's relationship to the weapon is symbolic of the struggle at the heart of the book.

As the story progresses from the perils of the bush to the swarming chaos of metropolitan Dagonum, something of this intensity filters away. The life of the city-market takes over the drama of Paul's individual battle, and offers Dickinson the chance for some story-book manipulations that detract from the sharply authentic thrills of the earlier chapters.

In the final pages Dickinson's zest for realities reasserts itself through the device of the choose-yourself conclusion: "Twenty Years On, Perhaps: A and B". In each alternative the AK is still a central presence, symbolic of either power at rest or power rampant, and the reader's optimism will be severely taxed not to find a greater convincingness about tragic scenario B.

Hugh Barnes on the literary novelist who has gone off into the muddy sticks to put the world to serious rights

## Country living for earnest

JEAN MORRIS



John Berger, Booker Prize winner, visionary or twerp, writer who has gone to find the secret of life with peasants in darkest Haute Savoie

John Berger's reputation as a writer is uncertain. His admirers claim he is a seer, a visionary, but according to his detractors, he's just a pretentious twerp. When *G*, a novel of conspicuous modernism and dubious merit, won the 1972 Booker Prize, the book itself was more or less forgotten in the brouhaha surrounding Berger's donation of half the prize money to the Black Panthers. The other half went towards his own research into a book about migrant workers.

Soon after the Booker fiasco Berger turned his back on England altogether, and went to live in a small peasant community in France. The planned book became three books, a trilogy entitled "Into Their Labours", which would evoke "the intricate movement from peasant society to metropolis". In 1979 Berger published the first instalment, *Pig Earth*, a collection of essays, poems and stories. Ten years later came *Once in Europe*, which portrayed the disintegration of rural life. Both volumes paid homage to Haute Savoie, the village that sparked Berger's imagination and impelled him towards this most high-minded and disastrous of projects.

*Lilac and Flag* concludes the trilogy. It tells the story of two lovers, Susus and Zsuzsa, who are forced to leave their mountainous village and go off in search of work in a fictional city called Troy. The departure is witnessed by an old woman, the narrator, who has seen countless young people set off for the "acropolis of wealth", never to return.

In some ways it's hardly surprising that Berger's characters appear as archetypes. Ever since the Romantics, the idealisation of rural life has been a part of urban culture. People who live in the country grow accustomed to being misunderstood and transmogrified by townies. The most obvious example is "Resolution and Independence", in which Wordsworth asks the leech-gatherer about his philosophy of life, but is so excited by meeting a yokel that he forgets to listen to the answer.

Berger has the opposite problem. Of the writers who have tackled the historical elimination of peasant life, he may be the one whose quest has been conducted in the most deadly earnest. *Lilac and Flag*, however, is a restless and uneven work, in which it is possible to identify the conflict that has become a condition of Berger's writing. This conflict he

casts in the form of a struggle between peasant innocence and the dystopian values of Troy, a city overrun by gangsters with Homeric names like Diomedes and Nestor, but also revelling in Coca-Cola, computers and Crack.

A stern view of our decadent culture keeps Berger ticking over. Indeed he writes as if under permanent siege by a hated (but also beloved) enemy, who may at any moment break through his defences. And this sense of struggle with the monster of metropolitanism gives his writing, at its best, a tense urgency.

On a few rare occasions Berger really hits his stride and writes in this vital manner. At such times —

when the book suddenly comes alive, like a flame leaping out of an exhausted fire — the inert insufficiency of the surrounding text is brought into sharp relief. For example, Susus kills himself towards the end of the novel because he knows he will not return home. On the next page, however, he reappears marching up the gangplank of a mysterious white ship, and we are led to believe that this is the beginning of his life-after-death.

It is as if Berger had momentarily engaged with what he is writing. But the moment passes,

LILAC AND FLAG  
By John Berger  
Granta, £12.99

and he relapses into the state of slack detachment by which the book is ruled, a sort of automatic pilot mechanism. The plot wobbles about, and Berger's prose flits between archaism and slang.

There is a problem of style. In *Lilac and Flag*, as if finding his own literary Manichaeism insufficient for the complexity of the task at hand, Berger abjures realism for a form of fantasy that would leave him open to charges of aestheticism, were not the book so unrelievedly dull.

Whereas *Pig Earth* and *Once in*

*Europe* managed to convey the exuberance and the hardship of life in a peasant community, the world of *Lilac and Flag* seems completely artificial. It is hard to believe in Troy or in any of the characters. The more one ponders the strange failure of this book about a subject with which Berger has dealt so clearly in the past, the more one begins to suspect that the trouble may be a lack of new ideas. Although nobody quite knows what John Berger has to say about the relationship between peasants and the international economic system, the reader of *Lilac and Flag* cannot help wondering if he hasn't said it already.

## Sad black Prospero playing Caliban

PHILADELPHIA did not turn out to be a city of brotherly love. Nor, for Cudjoe, who is John Edgar Wideman's main character in *Philadelphia*, is it the hoped-for black Camelot. "Whites still outnumber us," he says, but there had been possibilities that "we might have half a chance to do our thing here, do it our way". He loves the idea of the city, loves its hugeness and its power, but set against this ideal is the reality.

In 1985 police bombed and burnt a house in Osage Street, Philadelphia, because it was the headquarters of an Afrocentric, back to nature cult, thought by neighbours to be anti-social. Eleven people were killed, only one small boy escaping untraced into the wilderness of the city. This real life example of civic hatred becomes the focal point for Cudjoe's thoughts about himself and his past. He feels that by marrying and then leaving a white woman, later

abandoning his native city to live on a Greek island, he is guilty of a double betrayal — "about blackness and about being a man". So he wants to return and seek out the child who escaped from Osage Street as a way of finding self and the past. Ideas of failed parenthood and failed friendship run steadily through his thoughts as he measures his achievements against his aspirations. He would like to have been Prospero, but sees himself as Caliban. The shifting images by which these feelings are described make Wideman's novel disconcerting at times, but never dull. He writes with real passion and excitement.

Smaller and more local passions run through Dulan Barber's picture of a middle-aged woman living in Berkshire, *A World Without Wool Shops*. Dolly Sharkey, recently separated from her husband, goes to set up a new life for herself in the country and to meet the challenge of new routines, new friends. It is as if, being single again, she must approach the issues of the 1980s

from a different angle. They are demanding issues. Her husband Marcus has decided he is homosexual, and is grappling both in private and public with the reality of Aids. Her daughter is taking part in a play at a peace festival at Greenham Common, and her friends are urging her to join CND. But Dolly does not want to. She does not want, she says "to be put into a bag with people towards whom I feel an antipathy, just because we have one common end". It is not clear whether we are meant to sympathise with this. Is a person's individuality threatened by taking part in such activities? Is the peace march just another form of aggression? Perhaps it is easy to be a victim and easy to be bossy. The question is how to avoid being either.

Zoe Fairbairns' three sisters described humorously as *Daddy's Girls* ask similar questions, but they answer them too, and fully. The first, Christine, is young enough at the time of the Cuba crisis to be forcibly prevented by her father from going on an Aldermaston march. Janet, growing up into a safer and more prosperous time, wants always to please her father, to be as unlike her older, rebellious sister as possible. This brings a different sort of insecurity. She falls victim to a more acquisitive society and to a marriage that requires constant keeping up. Only Miranda, the third and youngest sister, is clever enough to understand the nature of manipulation and to make a stand against it. Reaching the age of 16 just as Mrs Thatcher is swinging into action, she knows what power is about, and it is she who tries to guide her mother out of a demeaning marriage into self-reliance. The teenage years of each sister coincide with different values and styles, which Zoe Fairbairns has caught with delicacy. The saga moves slowly, but it provides a steady framework for the author's study of the telling details of domestic conversations.

Anne Barnes

PHILADELPHIA FIRE  
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Viking, £13.99  
A WORLD WITHOUT WOOL SHOPS  
By Dulan Barber  
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THE TIMES

## Blanche with cannibal

CRIME

Marcel Berlins

DEAD MEAT

By Trevor Barnes  
New English Library, £13.95

DETECTIVE Superintendent Blanche Hampton, unhappy in her personal life, frustrated in her professional ambitions by male resistance to clever women cops, is under pressure from on high to solve a series of mutilation killings of young women. The reader soon knows the psychopath's identity. A solicitor by day, in the evenings he meets his dates, strangles them and cuts off bits of their flesh. Hampton, for a long time on the wrong track, eventually closes in and learns, horrifyingly, that she already knows the psycho. Blanche Hampton is a heroine with failings and hangups galore: she's human, and never boring. Her assistant, incidentally, is black and gay — lots of minority marks for that.

● *Reasonable Doubt*, by Philip Friedman (Headline £13.95). If you liked Scott Turow's *Presumed Innocent*, you will probably enjoy *Reasonable Doubt*. The similarities are too insistent to gloss over. *Reasonable Doubt* (two-word ambivalent legal concept titles are in vogue) is also a courtroom drama written by a lawyer about a lawyer, full of detailed yet not tedious pre-trial and trial procedures. It contains, of course, all the usual tricks and surprises of the genre. But *Presumed Innocent* had that extra initial twist, the lawyer in charge of the prosecution becoming the defendant. *Reasonable Doubt* has an equally ingenious device. A rich socialite pleads with lawyer Michael Ryan to defend her on a murder charge. She is alleged to have bashed her husband Ned's head in with a modern sculpture. Only, Ned is Michael's son, and the lawyer believes his daughter-in-law to be guilty. In addition, he's a provenly incompetent defence lawyer.

● *The Ivory Seal*, by Guy Stanley (Bantam, £12.99). Akari, a once respectable Tokyo journalist now reduced to working for the sleazebags, is hired by a rich young woman to find her disappeared mother. His digging, helped by a Brit sidekick, involves him with a dodgy religious order frequented by the missing ma, reveals a monstrous property fraud.

● *Club*, by Bill James (Macmillan, £12.95). Cops and villains belong to one family: they have more in common with each other than with anyone in the outside world. The message is not original, but James's books (*Club* is the seventh) give it a persuasive authenticity that no amount of intellectual argument can match. In *Club*, Assistant Chief Constable Iles's wife Sarah has just had a child. It might be the husband's, but equally the father could be Aston. Sarah's long-time criminal lover and obsession. Quietly, subtly, James is compiling a brilliant portrait of a society which few writers have penetrated.

● *The Great California Game*, by Jonathan Gash (Century, £12.99). There are exceptions, of course, but as a general rule characters in crime novels do not travel well, especially when they go to new places abroad. Even the excellent antiquarian Lovejoy (natural habitat East Anglia) has, I'm afraid, not made a happy transition to New York and American points west. He's too wide-eyed and naive by nine-tenths (for instance, he'd never heard of Greenwich Village or the Bronx. I ask you). Still, there's a lot of the usual exuberant antiquarian activity. Lovejoy gets into Mob hands as a paid fake-spotter, a big scam is afoot, and it's all quite fast and entertaining. But come home, please.

● *The Last Coincidence*, by Robert Goldsborough (Collins, £12.95). Writing mysteries using someone else's characters and copying someone else's style is, I feel, a somewhat run way to earn a crust, but Goldsborough keeps producing urbane Nero Wolfe stories, set in present times, but otherwise obeying all Rex Stout's habits and conventions. In this one, a nasty, sexually predatory playboy is done in. Wolfe and his right hand Archie Goodwin dig deeper into eccentric family secrets, and conduct a satisfyingly old-fashioned climactic meeting of all the suspects in the library. But Goldsborough — obviously a talented writer and plotter — ought to start his own line.

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## BRIEFING

## Adventure must wait

BERYL Bainbridge has become the latest casualty of the financial crisis facing the Liverpool Playhouse. Her play, *An Awfully Big Adventure*, which is based on Bainbridge's experiences 40 years ago as an assistant stage manager at the theatre, was to have run there in March. But now the production has been called off because Frank Taylor, the High Court-appointed administrator of the Playhouse, has decided it is too expensive. Instead a new Francis Durbridge mystery starring Patrick Mower will run from March 11 to March 23, to be followed by a revival of Willy Russell's *Shirley Valentine*. Taylor is trying to find a way of paying off the theatre's £600,000 debts before the end of March.

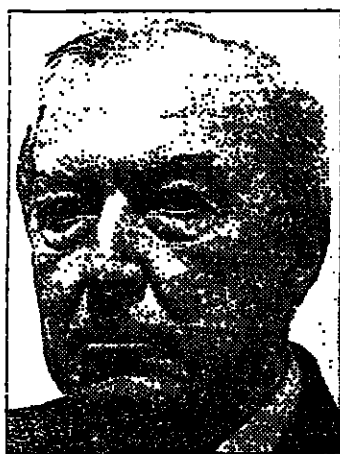
## Shore things

HARRISON Birtwistle's infamously violent reinterpretation of the venerable seaside show *Punch and Judy*—first staged at the Aldeburgh Festival 23 years ago—returns to the festival (June 7-23) this year. Birtwistle, who will conduct, is the featured composer, and will supply two new orchestral songs. Elsewhere in the fortnight, Britten's church parable, *Curlew River*, will be performed in tandem with the Japanese Noh play that inspired it, *Sumidagawa*.

## Young ideas

AFTER a year of encouraging young playwrights around Britain, the Royal Court/Marks and Spencer Young Writers Festival is celebrating its discovery of new writing talent. Starting today and running until March 2, members of the Royal Court Young People's Theatre will perform four short plays, three of which can be seen in one evening. There will also be a selection of rehearsed readings, workshops and playwriting days. In the past 15 years, the festival has discovered Hanif Kureishi, Winsome Pinnock and the late Andrea Dunbar.

## Last chance...



Jasper Johns: divided views

OF THE two shows running at the Hayward Gallery (071-928 3144) since November, undoubtedly *The Drawings of Jasper Johns* has excited more debate. Opinion has been split between those who see Johns as one of the greatest (as well as most expensive) of living artists, and those for whom the show chronicles a steady decline from sensitive, slight beginnings into repetition and emptiness. Londoners and visitors have until Sunday to check for themselves. Those who do will also find uncontroversial pleasure in the quirky American photographs of Garry Winogrand, *Figments From the Real World*, which are showing upstairs.

## CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

## Geoff Brown reviews

*The Grifters*,  
*Kindergarten Cop*,  
*Kickboxer 2* and  
*Daddy's Dyin' —*  
*Who's Got the Will?*

In the Forties, when American movies needed shady characters spitting tough words and pounding mean streets, they turned to the novels of Raymond Chandler. Today, increasingly, Jim Thompson is their man. He died, neglected, in 1977, leaving some 29 novels, mostly devised for the lurid paperback trade. *The Kill-Off*, two years ago, offered a dingy, low-budget blast of the authentic Thompson nihilism. Now *The Grifters* (18, Warner West End, Screen on the Green) resurrects another novel, but with prestige trimmings. The production, mounted by Martin Scorsese, gleams with icy colour and elegance. Anjelica Huston, topped off with blonde hair, gives the kind of crafty, banked-down, button-holing performance that easily hooks Oscars. The tingling music is by Elmer Bernstein; the director is Britain's Stephen Frears: a hot property after the international success of *Dangerous Liaisons*.

The punchiest scenes in Donald Westlake's script come straight from the Thompson source, a yarn about the interlocked fates of three grifters (con artists). Take Huston's punishment at the hands of her Mob boss: a stomach blow, a teasing slug with oranges wrapped in a towel, and a ferocious burn, all executed with eerie poise and small talk.

Yet the film remains maddeningly short of cumulative drama. These grifters—the grandiose mother, awed son only 14 years younger, and sex-kitten girlfriend—shamble about the Los Angeles map, from drab apartment to racetrack to motel, forever eluding a social context that would help explain their behaviour. This may partly be due to post-production tinkering: several scenes, including mother and son at earlier ages, have now vanished. But Frears likes scrubbing away detail in the interests of style; at times he parades his benighted trio almost as participants in a Greek tragedy.

Aside from crippling the narrative, the disjointed mood of *The Grifters* frustrates the actors' hard work. Anjelica Huston, icy-faced, icy-voiced, dominates all her scenes as Lilly Dillon, betting-odds manipulator and jealous mother; Annette Bening, surely a rising star, bewitches as Myra, the mix of a girlfriend. But they remain hedged in: as much the victims of the film's erratic structure as John Cusack (stock between two rampaging ladies as Lilly's son, Roy). Plausible enough as a small-time trickster, Cusack seems far too much the patsy for audiences to fret over his fate.

Jim Thompson, to be sure, never cared tuppence for sympathetic characters: he viewed humanity as we might view cockroaches. Yet he caught the creatures' scurrying with precise background detail and psychological insight. Bereft of these, *The Grifters*—Frears' first film in America—is an impressive exercise in hardboiled stylistics, but a frozen, half-cooked drama.

## Designer dead-beats

Anjelica Huston: "the kind of crafty, banked-down performance that hooks Oscars" in *The Grifters*

The last time we saw Arnold Schwarzenegger he was bursting every blood vessel rescuing Mars from a dictator's grip in *Total Recall*. Now he comes before us reading A.A. Milne to a kindergarten class, accompanied by his pet ferret. Clearly, Arnie has been bitten by the same Hollywood bug previously responsible for sapping Tom Selleck's manliness in *Three Men and a Cradle*.

But the stakes are higher: instead of three mere mortals and one mewling infant, *Kindergarten Cop* (12, Empire) offers one muscle-strewn superhero and 30 rambunctious children. They run him ragged, of course; he tames them, of course.

Schwarzenegger begins with subtle shades, and guns: the usual props of an ornery Los Angeles cop tracking a vicious drugs-dealer. Then the bug bites: he shaves and goes undercover to protect the dealer's divorced wife and child, currently located in Oregon.

Enrolled as the kindergarten teacher, he conquers the tots with some police academy discipline, falls for the third-grade teacher's charms, weeps silent tears over broken homes, and throws himself into the school's daily round. Gunfire returns when the villain arrives to kidnap his child; in *Kindergarten Cop*, violence and sentimentality sit queasily side by side.

Teamed once again with Ivan Reitman, who directed him in *Twins*, Schwarzenegger pokes modest fun at his action-man image, though his frenzy of

helplessness when first faced with the tots is horribly overdone. This, alas, is the director's way: whatever the mood—sentimental, rude, blood-spattered—Reitman knows exactly how to bludgeon a scene to the ground. Elsewhere in the cast, Pamela Reed gives a plucky show as the cop's zany partner; crudely struck down with stomach flu. The children themselves have passed through the cuteness machine: spontaneity went thataway. This is very much a film in the current Hollywood mode: strident, tethered to a formula, a star vehicle derailed by hasty hands.

Two years ago, Jean Claude Van Damme—Belgian pretender to Schwarzenegger's crown—paraded his biceps in *Kickboxer*, a low-budget saga of blood, sweat and vengeance largely shot in Bangkok. It pleased enough video fans to warrant *Kickboxer 2* (18, Cannon Oxford Street), though Thailand and Van Damme are no longer part of the package. One Sasha Mitchell (a runt in comparison to Van Damme) takes the central role of David Sloan, tender-hearted brother of Van Damme's kickboxer, who incurred Bangkok's wrath by defeating a hulking brute called Tong Po.

The patry plot matters little; as does the acting, for all Peter Boyle's grimaces as a suspect sports promoter. The film's grist lies in the fights: hideous, slow-motion ballers of blood and spit, ripped lips and eyes, of faces pulverised by flying feet. The

director is Albert Pyun, a prolific provider of action tosh, once apprenticed to Kurosawa. As a stage play, *Daddy's Dyin' — Who's Got the Will?* (12, Cannon Tottenham Court Road) ran for nearly two years in Los Angeles, though it never reached Broadway. In director Jack Fisk's modest screen transfer, you can still sniff the theatre in every entrance and exit of the fractious Buford family, gathered in Texas round their father's bed.

Del Shores' salty regional dialogue contains a few lines worth a smile, though his characters are shunted too fast through the play's predictable pattern for the performers to advance much beyond caricature. Beau Bridges convinces as the boorish Orville, a child gone to seed without ever having become an adult; Beverly D'Angelo noisily plunges into the fray as Evalita, the black sheep, six times divorced. But the comedy never takes flight; the heart-warming stops after a few degrees.

If the current films bore, consider the past. The smaller of the Barbican's two cinemas presently offers a season linked to the centre's Childhood festival. *Pathe Panchali* begins the cycle tomorrow; other films hail from the world's four corners, including Britain (*Hope and Glory*), the Soviet Union (*The Childhood of Maxim Gorky*), Sweden (*My Life As a Dog*), Taiwan (*Summer at Grandpa's*) and Iran (*The Runner*). Do not expect Shirley Temple: this is childhood from the art-house perspective. But there is much enchantment.

## FESTIVAL: STUDENT FILMS

## Practicalities and the personal path

Geoff Brown on whether film schools instil appreciation of cinema along with technique

Hammersmith's Riverside Studios tomorrow play host once more to the fruits of the world's film schools. Delicacies from America, Jamaica, Italy, France, Ireland and Bulgaria, plus the crop of 39 British establishments, form the core of the third BP Expo, an entirely welcome eight-day bonanza of student film and video sponsored by British Petroleum. Rising local talents such as Thaddeus O'Sullivan and Philip Ridley, plus established luminaries (Stephen Frears, John Boorman), will discuss their work and the problems of careers in the industry. This is a festival about making connections, getting ahead.

British film schools share the event's practical orientation, although not, perhaps, to the ruthless degree of some American schools, whose graduate roll-calls range from cinema's big-wigs (Coppola, Scorsese) to Amy Heckerling, director of *Look Who's Talking*. Yet goals remain the same. Students at Britain's colleges, polytechnics and the National Film and Television School do not spend their time absorbing the lessons of the masters; they get job training, geared towards the industry's demands and constraints.

Look at the prospectus of the School of Film and Television at London's Royal College of Art. For the first part of their two-year course, filmmaking students cut their teeth on advertising films and pop promos. Emboldened by the battery of tricks thus acquired, they progress the following year to documentary and narrative films.

Other courses concern animation, design, plus the financial and entrepreneurial skills required by low-budget production. In British film schools, technique is paramount; the art's history—now almost a hundred years—gets squeezed into a corner.

Practical training remains crucial: this is what the schools were designed and equipped for. Yet in an art form driven so much by consumer demands and the lure of fashion, the benefit of a wider curriculum embracing film history becomes all the more important. We need filmmakers whose qualifications stretch far beyond a master's degree in late 20th-century visual dazzlement. We need directors sensitive to cinema's many traditions, not stuck in the rut of one current style; we need people who have absorbed the craftsmanship and wisdom of the ages, but can still force their own individual paths.

Education supposedly stimulates curiosity, yet many British film students restrict their knowledge of cinema's past to current cult favourites or the Establishment's Top 10. Imagine a music composition student who knew only *Bohème*, the 1812 overture, and Beethoven's Fifth. There is a jungle of celluloid out there to explore and digest: eccentric Russian comedies of the 1920s; B-

movie jewels from Hollywood's conveyor belt; sublime flights of Japanese fancy by directors other than Kurosawa; the films of Guru Dutt, mongrel offsprings of art-house yearnings and Indian commercial formulae. To get the best from the past, a historical sense has to be engendered, students in a hurry to be the next Steven Spielberg or Ridley Scott have neither the time nor patience.

Film courses within a university framework reverse the balance: there is little, if any, practical component, but lashings of history. You may pursue your own research areas, or plunge into the thorniest thickets of theory. At Warwick, you can battle with "Issues of Representation". Kent tackles "Sexual Difference and Cinema". East Anglia offers "Structuralist and Post-Structuralist Film Theory". Worthy subjects all for exercising the brain matter, though the end product of the course can easily be just another academic, good for nothing but spouting words. This does little for film culture in general.

Some schools at least make fleeting stabs at film history and appreciation. The National Film

Iain Glen in David Hayman's *Silent Screams*, to be screened on Wednesday

and Television School has mounted masterclass analyses of *Seven Samurai*, *My Darling Clementine*, and other textbook classics. But these only scratch the surface of cinema's range, and without a sympathetic context the sessions can easily become sterile classroom exercises, forced upon sceptical students anxious to get back to their Bolex cameras and editing tables.

However their courses are structured, film schools cannot give the aspiring director everything. Most of the art's founding fathers had no film school to go to—the Soviet Union's State School of Cinematography, founded in 1919, was unique for many years. People like Griffith, Ford and Renoir brought to the industry a fresh eye and a passion for discovery that can hardly be recaptured as cinema nears its centenary. Yet if film schools encouraged students to think more about the past and less about the present frenzy, cinema's prospects for the century ahead could well be much brighter.

● BP Expo, Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, London W6, (081-748 3354) February 1-8

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# Hope awaits truthful direction

## OPERA

### Fidelio Theatre Royal, Glasgow

THE hope in Beethoven's opera is quite irrepressible: it comes charging across from the stage and the pit, even at a time like this, and even in a performance plagued by unsure vocal pitching and a literal-minded director it had to begin with a dumb show of Leonore's cross-dressing (during the overture).

The achievement is, of course, principally Beethoven's but the credit for the rousing finale to last night's performance must go also to the strong and well-drilled Scottish Opera chorus and to the orchestra under Roderick Brydon.

For the orchestra it had not been all plain sailing, but Brydon's seriousness was everywhere evident in a deep warmth of tone, and in an exuberant sharing in the music's excitement. At the end, these were the qualities that mattered.

Derek McLane's set and Dunya Ramkova's Beethoven-period costumes offered the sort of verisimilitude that needs a Peter Hall to make it work on the stage. The first act was played in front of a heavy classical facade, pockmarked with bullet holes. A narrow roadway — presumably representing a side of the prison courtyard, in which no traffic passed — provided the only performing space, pushing all the action to the front and thereby emphasising the hesitancy and routine of singers who looked as if they had been left to their own devices as far as gesture and movement were concerned.

### THEATRE Imagine Drowning Hampstead

"DIFFICULT to describe, but I think it turned out to be a sort of dream play about the pain we're all immersed in." That is not the most apposite line to find in the programme, especially when it comes from the author himself. Sadly, the arbitrary invention and pretentious thinking that it bodes are also what Terry Johnson ends by delivering in *Imagine Drowning*.

Paradoxically, the plot belongs on the pulp-fiction shelf. Jane comes to a shabby boarding house in Cumbria to find her husband, David, a journalist who disappeared a few weeks before. As it turns out, he was tracking a

### THEATRE The Cézanne Syndrome Old Red Lion

THE relevance of the title is explained in one of the voices that produce the scenes. There are 16 in all, which refer to car accessories. Anti-Freeze. Keys. Visor (the play is Canadian) — or road signs. Dead End being the last of these. Cézanne, we are told, tried to fight through to a new reality, concerned not with the object perceived but with the who perceives. In this play, by Normand Canac-Marquis, we are to focus on the nature of young Gilbert rather than on the car crash that so obsesses him.

Wearing oil-stained jeans, he squats by the engine of his wrecked car, doing things with spanners in the hope of bringing it back to life, and perhaps himself too. Something he did with the anti-freeze allowed the engine to overheat, yet the consequent explosion does not seem to be the cause of his wife's death. Was he the driver of the mysterious truck that crashed into her? Does he want her dead?

Whether he does or not, she keeps bursting into his troubled

Then in the second act, there was an idea. Florestan's cell was a dilapidated library, boasting not only bookshelves but also a telescope. That was an unnecessary piece of symbolism. If it was meant to suggest that tyranny is a trial to the reading public, more important issues are at stake in this opera. It also created problems in the staging: under the floorboards is not a plausible place for Rocco to be grave-digging, and there was no way to bring a visual sense of extension and release to much of the music's change of register at the end. Having a few children trot a lap of the room looks like a gesture of despair.

Stephen Wadsworth's is altogether the sort of production that needs striking central performances to bring some life and energy to it, and maybe these will materialise. The intonation problems, this time round, seemed to have rocked confidence, though not in the case of Richard Brunner's Florestan and Greer Grimley's Pizarro.

Brunner sounds like a lyric tenor moving into heavier repertoire and his voice maintains an attractive ring even if, at times, this brilliance carries with it the risk of slipping out of control. His big aria will be more effective when he can be less cautious — and would be more effective still if he could get rid of the absurdly real and clanking chains.

His singing thereafter was frank and true. Grimley was an unusual Pizarro: less a deep-dyed villain than a spoilt and insolent boy. But his performance made the characterisation work, and his singing was firm, rounded and vigorous throughout.

The Leonore and the Rocco were both native German speak-

ers, which made some sense of the decision to perform the opera in the original language. Gudrun Volkert as Leonore made an appealing sound: creamy, but with the possibility of a cutting edge. She never for a moment looked male, but the eagerness and the nobility of spirit were there, and if she can settle down this will be a

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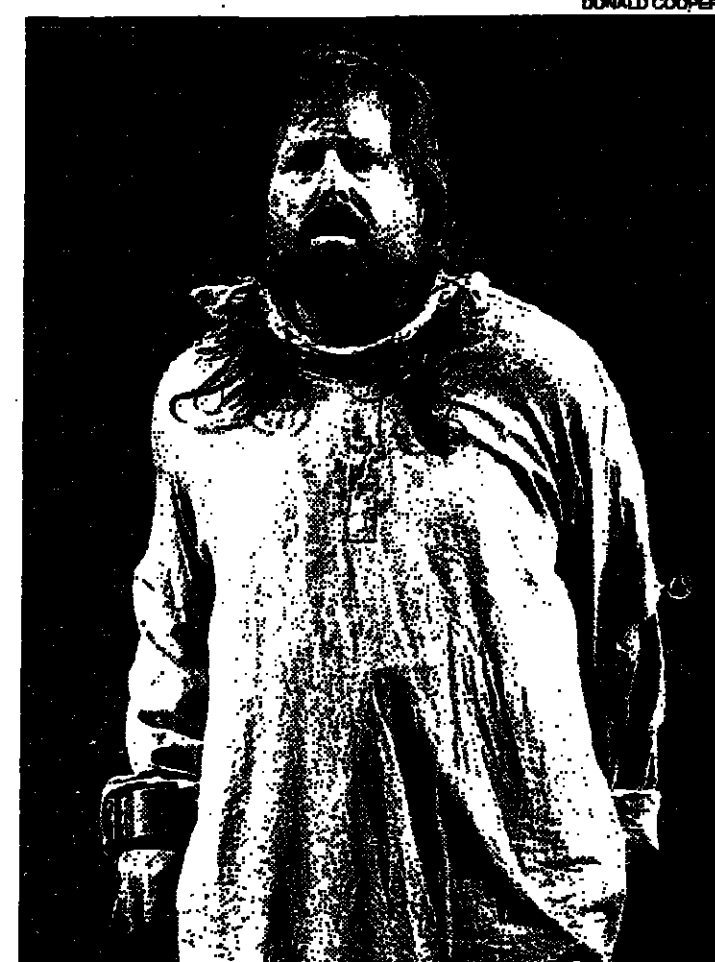
Sylvester La Touzel makes an understandably uptight Jane, and Douglas Hodge a David whose voice effortlessly shifts from surly growl to raucous yelp. They are joined by Frances Barber's landlady, wanly smiling as she drolly trudges the stage, and Nabil Shaban as a crippled dwarf in a Guvra T-shirt who picks up supermarket selling South Af-

rican goods. Especially when Barber speaks, the dialogue can be simple, even amusing, but when the need to be significant seizes Johnson, it becomes sententious. Nowhere is this more so than when Ed Bishop, an American who is part beachbum and part chorus, cynically shambles on stage. He is, believe it or not, a former astronaut, contemptuous of "godforsaken, manically depressed" England, and given to delivering delphic lectures on compassion while forcibly baptising his listeners in the bryny.

"The characters, like us, have just survived a decade of moral, political and sexual confusion," Johnson's programme note explains. "I've tried to look at how we survive the cold of the ocean." Myself, I would have preferred a good, plain thriller.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

JEREMY KINGSTON



Frank and true portrayal: Richard Brunner as Florestan in *Fidelio*

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BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

JEREMY KINGSTON

## NEW RELEASES

AKIRA (12): Apocalyptic mecha in a futuristic Tokyo. Luminous and tedious Japanese animated feature, stamped by its comic book style. Director: Katsuhiro Motohiro. ICA Cinema (071-930-3647).

CATCHFIRE (15): Ragged tale of a mob man (Dennis Hopper) falling in love when he should be killing. Joe Foster. Hopper also directs, and plays a reactionary. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

HAVANA (15): Robert Redford as the gambler who wins a mysterious woman (Lana Clarkson) during Castro's revolution. Sluggish, repetitive, and with paper-thin characters. Director: Sydney Pollack. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

MANACOP 2 (15): Cross return visit of the megalomaniac, with barely staged action stunts and incoherent humour. Director: Michael Winner. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE (15): Charles Tinsdale comedy, with a new team, from Carrie Fisher's novel. Mary Steenburgen as the druggist's wife, Shirley MacLaine as her mother, Doctor Mike Nichols. Director: Oded Balilty. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

ROCKY V (PG): Sylvester Stallone fights his last battle for his family, career and spirit. Dim-witted and to the bone. Director: John Glushko. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

AIR AMERICA (15): Mel Gibson and Robert Downey Jr. as men of war in a Vietnam war. Cold, cross, and depressing. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

AFROPHOBIA (PG): Deadly spiders rampage through a cosy Californian community. Enthusiastic, but with humour and suspense. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

BEAUTIFUL DREAMERS (15): Double historical heart-warmer about an asylum doctor spreading love and compassion. Director: John Huston. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

ALL THINGS NICE: An accomplished cast led by Jonathan Ross's first wife with a superb script. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

BETRAYAL: Peter's backwoods look at an adultery. Gripping, intense, but with a weak script. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

CHILDREN OF EDEN: General musical from the Broadway musical. Director: Stephen Schwartz. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

THE CRUCIBLE: Tom Wilkinson stands up for decency against a fanatic. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

FIVE GUYS NAMED Moe: Moe's story of a man who loses his mind. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

A FREE COMPANY: Jews hiding in a farmhouse in Nazi France. Desperately low-key drama. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

GAULIGHT: First film of Anne. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

GASLIGHT: First film of Anne. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

THE WOMAN IN BLACK: A woman's story. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

THE FORBIDDEN PLANET: A woman's story. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

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## CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) on release with the symbol (L) on release across the country.

THE COMFORT OF STRANGERS (15): Robert Downey Jr. and Patricia Richardson. A touching story of a man and a woman. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

CYRANO DE BERGERAC (U): Gerard Philpott. A touching story of a man and a woman. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

THE FOG (15): Supporting, static tale of a man and a woman. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

THE GARDEN (15): The Passion. A touching story of a man and a woman. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

GHOST (15): James Cameron. A touching story of a man and a woman. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

HENRY AND JUNE (15): Anais Nin. A touching story of a man and a woman. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

HIDDEN AGENDA (15): Ken Loach. A touching story of a man and a woman. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

HOME ALONE (PG): Family fun. A touching story of a man and a woman. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

METROPOLITAN (15): A touching story of a man and a woman. Channel 4 Cinema (071-352-5085). Haymarket (071-930-1527) Oxford Street (071-930-0310).

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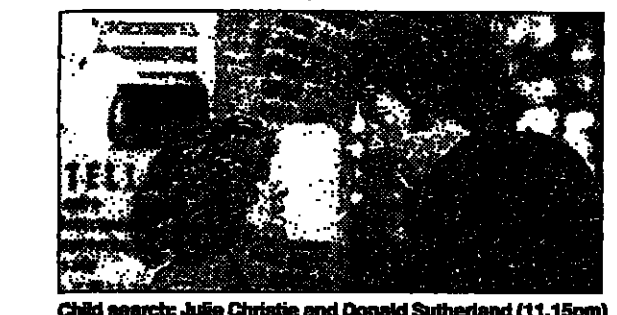
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BBC 1

6.00 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Meyer  
9.15 Killy. Robert Killy-Silk chairs a discussion on the morality of the need for schools to approach charities for financial assistance 9.55 Regional news and weather  
10.00 News 10.05 Playdays. Includes a visit to a ferry on Strangford Lough in Northern Ireland 10.30 People Today  
11.00 War in the Gulf  
12.15 Scene Today. Judi Spliers and Alan Titchmarsh host the daily entertainment show, live from Pebble Mill with music, conversation and special features 12.55 Regional news and weather  
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Heyton. Weather 1.35 Neighbours. (CeeFax)  
2.00 News followed by Going for Gold. Henry Kelly with the general knowledge quiz for European contestants 2.25 People Today  
2.55 What's the Guff. In the new film from the war zone and live coverage of business in the House of Commons, including prime minister's question time  
4.30 Film '91 with Barry Norman. Wit and wisdom from the world of cinema, including reviews of *The Grifters*, *Miller's Crossing* and *Kidnapped* (CeeFax)  
5.00 News 5.05 Rally Challenge. Round four of the Mobil 1 rally from the Isle of Man. The commentator is Steve Rider  
5.35 Neighbours (r). (CeeFax) Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 Inside  
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather 6.45 Regional News Magazine. Northern Ireland: Neighbours  
7.05 Top of the Pops introduced by Anthea Turner. (Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1)  
7.30 EastEnders. Pie and mash soap. (CeeFax)  
8.00 Tomorrow's World. Peter Macann and Bob Symes demonstrate new developments in two different types of vehicle. Macann is in Aberdeen to take part in the testing of a self-righting lifeboat, while the affable Symes dashes round a supermarket putting a newly designed trolley through its paces  
8.30 The Brittas Empire. A comedy with positive prospects starring Chris Barrie as the imperious manager of a leisure centre. Brittas increases his unpopularity with the staff when he suspects someone of stealing money. After interviewing all of them he sets a trap by doling out some £20 notes in order to catch the culprit "blue handed". Meanwhile, Helen Brittas (Phillipa Hewitt) is depressed after being ditched by her lover. (CeeFax) Northern Ireland: Spotlight  
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. (CeeFax) Regional news and weather  
9.45 When All Hours. Roy Clarke's genial comedy about a pampyrising shopkeeper (Ronnie Barker) permanently lusting after the local district nurse (Lynda Baron), and his nephew assistant Granville (David Jason). Granville tries to persuade his uncle that the delivery bike is too much like hard work and that he should buy a van instead (r). Northern Ireland: The Corner House  
10.15 Question Time. Political debate chaired by Peter Sissons from the Barbican Centre in London. Among those answering questions from the audience are journalist Max Hastings, former prime minister Edward Heath, the shadow chancellor John Smith and Sara Parkin of the Green party

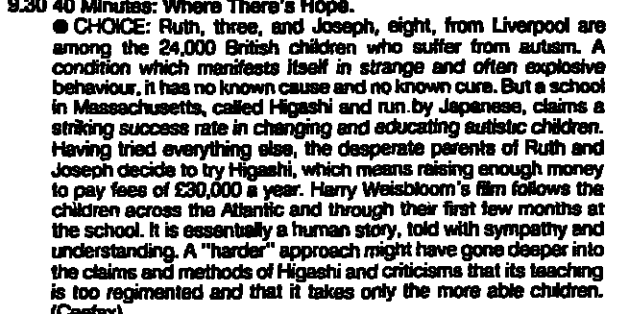


Child search: Julie Christie and Donald Sutherland (11.15pm)

11.15 Film: Don't Look Now (1973).  
© CHOICE: Nicolas Roeg is an infuriating director whose ambivalence towards his characters is often over the top. But when his last stay on the ground is over, he is left with a masterpiece. Don't Look Now, the occult thriller adapted from a short story by Daphne du Maurier, is his most accessible film and arguably his most successful. Julie Christie and Donald Sutherland play a married couple whose young daughter is drowned. They go to Venice to get over the tragedy and are tantalised by suggestions that the child may still be alive. Roeg's ornate style, helped by piercing images of a wintry Venice, embellishes rather than obscures a narrative that grips from the start and sustains its hold right through to an explosive climax. Even the film's most notorious sequence, a body shot over scene between Christie and Sutherland, is thematically valid and perfectly integrated  
1.00am News and weather. Ends at 1.10

BBC 2

6.00 News 8.15 Westminster  
9.00 Daytime on Two channels 9.45 French magazine for beginners  
11.00 Living in modern day Cairo 11.20 Young engineers tackle problems similar to those faced by Brunel 12.25 A collective farm in Uzbekistan  
2.00 News and weather followed by You and Me (r) 2.15 Antiques Roadshow. Heston, Northants. (CeeFax)  
3.00 World Wide: The World That Watches (r). (CeeFax)  
3.50 Dooby's Duck Truck. Cartoon 3.55 Gordon the Gopher with Philip Schofield 4.05 Jackanory. Miranda Richardson reads part four of Michael Morpurgo's *My Friend Walter* (r) 4.20 Fantastic Max. Cartoon about a bionic boy 4.30 Dolly's World's Amazing Story. Episode five of the six-part children's drama  
4.55 Newsround 5.00 Blue Peter visits the Netherlands to find out about the work of Europe's only animal police force  
5.30 Clean State. The education magazine includes a report on how the poll tax is affecting education in Scotland  
6.00 World Skilling Championships. The women's combined slalom from Saalbach, Austria  
6.40 Young Musician of the Year 1991-92. During the next 18 months some of the most talented young performers and, for the first time, young composers, will battle it out in a number of auditions leading to the British finals in April 1992  
7.35 First Sight: Over the Sea to Die. Jack Pizzey reports on the growing fears of horse lovers that the removal of trade barriers next year might result in British ponies being transported live to Europe for slaughter. Northern Ireland: Birds of a Feather; England: Midlands: The Midlands Report. Leeds: Newcastle and Manchester: Close-Up North; Southampton: Southern Eye; Plymouth: Western Approach; Bristol: Current Account  
8.05 Black Hawk. Episode five of the impressive eight-part dramatisation of Charles Dickens's classic novel, starring Diana Rigg, Dermot O'Leary and Peter Vaughan (r). (CeeFax)  
9.00 The Mary Whitehouse Experience. A satirical comedy which has made the move to the small screen  
9.30 40 Minutes: Where There's a Hope.  
© CHOICE: Ruth, three, and Joseph, eight, from Liverpool are among the 24,000 British children who suffer from autism. A condition which manifests itself in strange and often explosive behaviour, it has no known cause and no known cure. But a school in Massachusetts, called Higashi and run by Japanese, claims a striking success rate in changing and educating autistic children. Having tried everything else, the desperate parents of Ruth and Joseph decide to try Higashi, which means raising enough money to pay fees of \$30,000 a year. Harry Webster's film follows the children across the Atlantic and through their first few months at the school. It is essentially a human story, told with sympathy and understanding. A "harder" approach might have gone deeper into the claims and methods of Higashi and criticisms that its teaching is too regimented and that it takes only the more able children. (CeeFax)



Higashi hopeful: three-year-old Ruth O'Brien (9.30pm)

10.10 Small Objects of Desire: False Teeth.  
© CHOICE: It seems that dentures, currently worn by one-third of adult Britons, may eventually become redundant as we acquire the ability to grow our own new sets of teeth. Meanwhile the history of false teeth offers richly entertaining material of which this bright little film makes full use. The tone is established by a set of choppers in a glass of water taken in an Alan Bennett video about what their owner might have for breakfast that day. The ensuing discourse brings in Elizabeth I and Oscar Wilde, mixes anecdotes with social history and offers a barrage of fascinating facts. Visual aids include toothpaste advertisements, Monty Python-type animation and film clips going back to 1912. Perhaps we should not believe everything we are told. The claim that the American doctrine of separation of powers stemming from George Washington's embarrassment over his dentures seems suspect to say the least. (CeeFax)  
10.30 Newsnight presented by Peter Snow  
11.20 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine  
12.00 Weather  
12.05am Weekend Outlook. A preview of the weekend's Open University programmes. Ends at 12.15

ITV

6.00 TV-am with regular bulletins about the situation in the Gulf 9.00 After Nine presented by Kathy Taylor who is joined by agony aunt Clare Rayner  
9.25 ITN Gulf News Report 9.55 Thames News and weather  
10.00 The Time ... The Place ... John Stapleton chairs a discussion on a topical subject  
10.40 This Morning. Family magazine series presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Beauty expert Liz Earle gives viewers tips on how to look their best, and Anna Soubry has the latest gossip from the soap. Plus advice from family doctor Chris Steele on how to stay healthy. Includes national and international news headlines at 10.55 and regional news headlines at 11.55 followed by national weather  
12.05 The Riddlers. Children's entertainment 12.25 Thames News and weather  
12.30 News and weather  
1.20 Home and Away. Australian drama serial about a couple and their foster children 1.50 A Country Practice. Soap set around a rural Australian community health centre  
2.20 TV Weekly. A look behind the scenes of ITV's favourite shows, and a variety of other topical items. Includes a golden television moment 2.50 Give Us A Cue. Celebrity chat show  
3.15 News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 The Young Doctors. Australian drama set in a large city hospital where the problems are more emotional than medical  
4.00 Owl TV. Christian Moll visits a camel market in the Moroccan desert, and a visit to Perth 200 in Australia 4.20 Warner Brothers Cartoon 4.25 Spatz. Children's serial set in a fast food restaurant  
5.00 Home and Away (r)  
5.30 News (Oracle) and weather  
6.00 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz for teenagers  
6.30 Thames News and weather  
7.00 Emmerdale. Agricultural soap set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle)  
7.30 Jimmy's. More real-life dramas about the staff and patients of St James's Hospital in Leeds  
8.00 Gulf Report

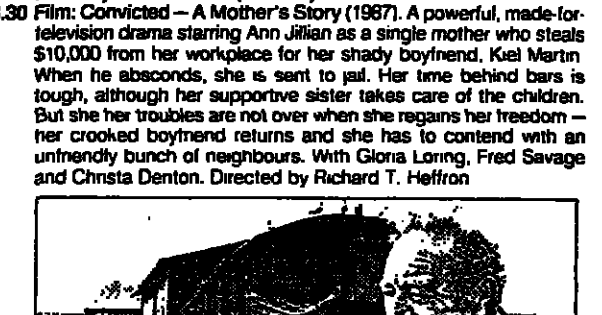


On the spot: Chief Superintendent Brownlow, centre (8.05pm)

8.05 The Bill. An arrest on a tough housing estate puts the chief on the spot in the outstanding law and order drama. (Oracle)  
8.35 This Week. An Iraqi, opposed to Saddam Hussein, gives a detailed picture of his country under the ferocious allied bombardment, from the United States, the effect of the Gulf war on Dover in Delaware, and, from Israel, concern that Iraq's next missiles might carry chemical warheads  
9.00 Minder: The Last Video Show. More trouble for the shifty second-hand car dealer and his glib sidekick. Arthur (George Cole) has a new scheme up his sleeve - Daley Videos - which Terry (Dennis Waterman) starts operating. Things become complicated when Sandra (Rula Lenska) returns the wrong tape. It belongs to her husband (Ian McShane) a wanted criminal, and contains evidence against the police. But when she tries to get it back, Terry has already lent it to someone who was looking for a blue movie (r). (Oracle)  
10.00 News at Ten (Oracle) and weather 10.45 Thames News and weather  
11.00 The City Programme. Includes investment opportunities in post-1992 Europe and the latest financial implications of the Gulf war - especially its effect on the UK insurance industry  
11.25 C1. A guide to London's entertainment scene  
12.00 Prisoner: Cell Block H  
1.15am A Problem Aired. Viewers' emotional problems discussed by experts  
1.45 World Chess. Raymond Keene, *The Times*' chess correspondent analyses the play at the half-way stage of the world championship qualifying match between Nigel Short and Jon Speelman  
2.00 Film: *Life's a Dream* (1981) starring Matt Dillon and Cindy Fisher. Engaging tale of the romance of a poor man and a wealthy woman. Filmed with two different endings both of which were released. Directed by David Fisher  
4.00 Three's Company. American sitcom starring John Ritter, Joyce DeWitt and Janice Pennington 4.30 America's Top Ten (r)  
5.00 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Channel Four Daily. Includes overnight news from the Gulf 9.25 Schools  
12.00 Channel 4 News  
12.05 The Parliament Programme presented by Sue Cameron  
12.30 Business Daily. Financial and business news service  
1.00 Sesame Street. Educational fun for pre-school children  
2.00 That's Entertainment. Richard Cawley takes the work and worry out of entertaining, and shows fashion student Pamela Anderson how to create a last birthday meal for her boyfriend, taking into account the limitations of a student grant, an ill-equipped kitchen and a tendency to burn everything (r). (Teletext)  
2.30 Equinox: Spytech. The excellent science and technology series looks at the implications of high-tech espionage (r). (Teletext)  
3.30 Land of Hope. Episode four of the stormy ten-part saga following the lives of an Irish-Australian working-class family from the end of the last century to the Seventies (r)  
4.30 Countdown. Richard Whiteley hosts the long-running words and numbers show, assisted by Martin Jarvis in the dictionary corner  
5.00 The Adventures of Tintin. Episode six of *The Treasure of Rackham the Red* (r)  
5.05 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Can women be bosses without being bitchy? Oprah finds out when she meets writer Jackie Collins. Essence magazine editor Susan Taylor and Countess Dana Von Furstenberg, queen of her own fashion empire  
6.00 Kate & Allie. Kate, a Subes free agent and Allie, a staid traditionalist, find themselves divorced, living in New York and with families to cope with. The solution to their predicament is to merge the two households. Starring Susan Sarandon and Jane Curtin (r)  
6.30 Desmond's. Comedy series set in a Peckham barber shop which cleverly contrasts the lifestyles of today's black Britons (r). (Teletext)  
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext)  
7.50 Comment followed by Weather  
8.00 Class by Class: The Miner's Tale. Ray Gosling's wry examination of the British class system since the second world war visits the Welsh valleys, one of the last great heartlands of working-class culture in Britain. As the pits and factories close, Ray Morgan and his family from Ebbw Vale debate how much longer working class solidarity can continue. (Teletext)  
8.30 Film: *Convicted - A Mother's Story* (1987). A powerful, made-for-television drama starring Ann Jillian as a single mother who steals \$10,000 from her workplace for her shady boyfriend, Neil Martin. When he absconds, she is sent to jail. Her time behind bars is tough, although her supportive sister helps her. The film is a tribute to her mother who was not over when she regains her freedom. Her crooked boyfriend returns and she has to contend with an unhelpful bunch of neighbours. With Gloria Loring, Fred Savage and Christa Denton. Directed by Richard T. Heffron



Kingdom under threat: Ron Todd and prize bantam (10.20pm)

10.20 True Stories: Kirby's Kingdom.  
© CHOICE: This is an affectionate portrait of a former council dustman, Ron Todd, who has created a home for more than 300 animals and birds on half an acre of land owned by his aunt near the north Yorkshire market town of Kirbymorsdale. A plucky man, who tends to communicate in grunts rather than words or sentences, Ron also grows flowers and vegetables and competes mercilessly at the shows. In a film as unhumorous as the way of life it portrays, the Canadian-born director Harriet Paumodt follows a year in the life of "Ron's ranch" from spring through summer and winter and back to spring, punctuated by a gap during the autumn when Ron has to go to hospital. The venture barely pays for itself and with developers wanting to cut through the land to build an access road to a housing estate, Ron's kingdom is looking increasingly precarious  
11.35 A Week in Politics - Late Sitting. A discussion by the veteran MPs Denis Healey and Sir David Steel on how Britain is financing the war in the Gulf. Plus Labour defence spokesman Martin O'Neill on Britain's changing goals in the Gulf war and Jeffrey Archer on his role as Mrs Thatcher's literary agent. Incorporates Channel 4 News. Ends at 12.00

GRANADA

As London except: 6.00pm Home and Away 6.30-7.00 Granada Tonight 10.55 Celebration 12.25am Match 1.20 Film: The Freshies 3.00 Comedy: The 3.45 Night Beat 4.50-5.00 Joolander  
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STOCK MARKET

# New hopes of rates cut lifts prices

SHARE prices were squeezed sharply higher in thin trading as hopes of an early cut in interest rates were revived.

A firm start to trading on Wall Street saw share prices in London close at their best levels of the day, with the FT-SE 100 index 38.8 points higher at 2,152.6. Turnover improved on recent depressed levels, with 360 million shares traded by the close. The FT index of 30 shares rose 29.7 points to 1,686.5.

Dealers said most of the early gains were inspired by the futures market, where the FT-SE 100 index March series continued to trade at a healthy premium. Continental buying was reported, forcing market-makers on to the defensive as they struggled to cut short positions.

The pound's steady performance has led some fund managers to believe the Bank of England may soon ease financial constraints. The Bundesbank meets today and is expected to peg interest rates at current levels. Such an outcome is likely to bring a sign of relief in Threepence Street Government securities gained almost 1/2 at the longer end, cheered by a forecast from Goldman Sachs that the securities house, that interest rates are set to fall.

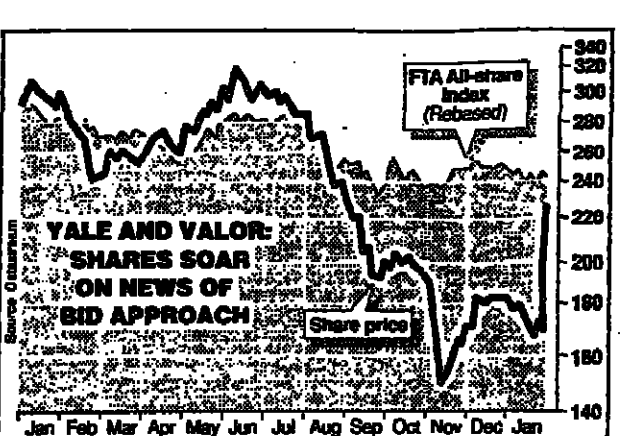
Yale & Valer jumped 39p to 219p, for a two-day rise of 63p, after confirming it had received a bid approach. The shares enjoyed a late run on Tuesday amid speculation that the group was about to receive a bid from Williams Holdings, owner of about 5 per cent.

Electricity and water shares enjoyed further gains after a bullish circular from Barclays de Zoete Wedd. The broker is keen on the utilities because of their earnings and dividend growth potential and recommends a switch from gas and telecommunications to electricity and water.

The water package rose £80 to £2,910. Anglian firmed 2p to 296p, Northumbrian 5p to 294p, North West 3p to 284p, Severn Trent 9p to 274p, Southern Water 4p to 267p, South West 14p to 298p, Thames 5p to 300p, Welsh 13p to 312p, Wessex 7p to 283p and Yorkshire 3p to 300p. The electricity package jumped £48 to £1,683. Eastern climbed 6p to 162p, East Midlands 4p to 167p, London 3p to 166p, Manweb 5p to 190p, Midlands 6p to 160p, Northern 4p to 163p, Norweb 7p to 170p, Seeboard 5p to 161p, Southern 5p to 169p, South Wales 4p to 181p, South West 10p to 171p and Yorkshire 1p to 179p.

British Gas firmed 3p to 233p, while British Telecom rose 5p to 290p.

Ladbroke rose 9p to 226p, helped by positive trading



news from its Hilton International hotels, but house-builders suffered in the wake of bearish comments from James Capel, the broker, this week. Barrat Developments fell 4p to 65p and George Wimpey slipped 3p to 170p.

WH Smith A fell 14p to 330p after reporting interim

figures at the bottom end of expectations. Trading profits were up 3 per cent, but pre-tax profits were down 7 per cent at £34.9 million after stripping out interest charges of almost £16 million.

Full-year figures from Rank Organisation, which last year

## Dow rises despite casualties

New York  
BLUE chips showed gains in morning trade as news of American casualties in the Gulf failed to depress sentiment. An unexpected rise in December economic indicators encouraged investors.

Ned Collins, executive vice president of American equity trading at Daiwa, said the market's rise was partly due to a fall through from Tuesday's solid finish, and that leadership continued to be strong. The Dow Jones industrial average was 25.23 points higher at 2,685.15.

□ Tokyo - Shares ended lower in this volume, with trading dominated by the market's pursuit of high-yield, small-capital issues. Brokers said this may continue in the absence of a broader market theme. The Nikkei index fell 50.51 points to 23,409.11, with 280 million shares traded.

□ Hong Kong - The Hang Seng index rose 7.99 points to 3,200.89.

□ Singapore - The Straits Times industrial index closed 2.06 points lower at 1,348.44.

□ Sydney - The All-Ordinaries index rose 10 points to 1,314.0.

□ Frankfurt - The Dax index ended 20.47 points higher at 1,400.73.

Reactions, the telecommunications equipment group, fell 2 1/2p to 12p after giving warnings that 1990 pre-tax profits are likely to fall short of brokers' forecasts. Write offs are likely to result in losses of £2 million.

MICHAEL CLARK

## WALL STREET

	Jan 30 midday	Jan 29 close	Jan 28 close	Jan 27 midday	Jan 26 close	Jan 25 midday	Jan 24 close	Jan 23 midday	Jan 22 close
Abbott Lab	64%	43%	Enron	52%	51%	Oryz Energy	34%	34	34
Abn-Amro	14%	29%	Energy	23	23%	Pacifi	23%	23	23
Amers	14%	29%	Engr	23	23%	Pacifi	23%	23	23
Amgen	28%	26%	Engr	23	23%	Pacifi	23%	23	23
Alcoa	58%	38%	Fed Ex	11%	11%	Pacifi	23%	23	23
Alkerm	20%	30%	Fed Ex	11%	11%	Pacifi	23%	23	23
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## Promising Dusty Miller to initiate Sherwood double

Paddy Mullins has been unhappy with Grabel's recent horsewreck and his life. "I don't know," joint owner with Paddy Kehoe, said: "Grabel is not sparking at the moment although there is absolutely nothing wrong with her."

Grabel's defection leaves Athy Spirit as the chief Irish hope for the £50,000 Leopardstown feature, which will have at most seven runners.

The leading bookmakers are having difficulty in separating last year's winner Nomadic Ways and fellow English challenger

with Andy spank on +1.

● The former jockey Stan Moore saddled his first winner as a trainer yesterday when a Dramatic Event outpaced Doc's Choice from the last light to win the Copper Horse Handicap Hurdle by eight lengths at Windsor.

**Tracercard**

at 12-0 \_\_\_\_\_ B West (7) 88

winner. 8F - beaten favorite in (3). Going on which horse has won 10, good to firm, hard 3 - good, good to soft, heavy). Owner in 1. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider's allowance. The Times Private's rating.

31: 2m 5f 26yd (14 runners)

5-11-19 \_\_\_\_\_ P Midgley (7) 85

1-11-19 \_\_\_\_\_ D Nimby 22

5-11-10 ..... P Midgley (7) @ 500  
5-11-8 ..... D Martin S2

[illegible]

3-121353	BRADSHAW WAS (C) (S) (S)	10-11-12	P Midgett (?)	30
3-121357	SHOENHOLZ HYPER (S) (G) (S) (S)	10-11-12	O Darnley	30
3-254-134	STREAM BROKE 30 (D,F,S) (Mrs D Stamp)	10-11-12	J Osborne	30
3-2162-10	TUNS HILL 13 (B,F,S) (Pacallard R Dicks 9-10-11)		Martha Jones (S)	30
3-326410	THE BROKE 13 (G,S) (S) (Edmund Partridge) A Turnell 7-10-13.		S Mifford	30
3-121358	WESSMAN (S) (S) (S) (S)	10-11-12	G Bawf (?)	30
3-247220	CONA GLENN 10 (G,S) (Mrs M Wight) T Forzer 10-10-15		C Lissenden	30
3-263-672	RED COLUMBIA 4 (G,S,B) (Mrs J Webster) K Wingers 10-10-15		W Bird (?)	30
3-121360	HASTY DIVER 10 (D,S) (K Britton) J All 10-10-11			34
3-1062-23	VALLEYSET 56 (S) (H Brown) J Edwards 8-10-11		M Williams	34
3-121361	VALLEYSET 56 (S) (H Brown) J Edwards 8-10-11		M Williams	34
3-121362	VALLEYSET 56 (S) (H Brown) J Edwards 8-10-11		M Williams	34
3-121363	BRADSHAW CORP 57 (H) (Mrs J Harwood) Mills J Harwood 10-15-17		V Mifford (?)	34

Long handling: Sunbeam Tarpot 5-12, Brassies Copse 6-8.

NETTING: 5-2 Missing May, 7-2 Tuns Hill, 11-2 Die Broke, 6-1 Red Columbs, 10-1 Valleyset, Glanville Jerry, 12-1 Hasty Diver, Cona Glen, 14-1 others.

1980: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

**FORM FOCUS** GLENDSIDE JERRY  
 1st bet to beat  
 Lakeland 1941 at Worcester (S) 1st bet to beat  
 COLUMBIA (56 bettor off) at 3rd. Stream Broke  
 prominent until 3 out when 171 lbs at Casper Car  
 Tuns Hill, (S) good.

1981 Tuns Hill, (S) good, 1st bet to beat. Trusty  
 Friend 120 at reappearances at Cheltenham (S) 11,  
 good to soft. Die BROKE best River House 3/41 on

penultimate start at Cheltenham (S) 11, good to  
 soft. BRASSING MAN one pound 10-10 to Golden  
 (S) 10-11, 10-12, 10-13, 10-14, 10-15, 10-16, 10-17  
 (same terms) 101 lb; and Die BROKE prominent  
 when unassisted 10-11, RED COLUMBIA running  
 10-11, 10-12, 10-13, 10-14, 10-15, 10-16, 10-17  
 good, VALLEYSET 125d 3rd to Hopalong at Leicester  
 (S) 2d, good.

Selectors: Die BROKE

<b>4.15 DRAYTON HOUSE NOVICES (RURDLE) (Div II: £1,910; 2m) (78 runners)</b>					
1	<b>12P BIDDERS CLOWN 36</b> (S) (ex Farmington) J Edwards 6-11-3	N Williamson			
2	<b>40-23 CONKINY BOY 24</b> (L) (ex G) H Menstocky Mrs J Plamen 6-11-3	M Plamen			
3	<b>3034-22 DAUNOU 82</b> (B/F) (A Lancs) Long Racing Ppt S Christen 5-11-3	A Shillfield			
4	<b>12-10 DORIS 10</b> (M Arabid) H Handerson 7-11-3	R Daymond			
5	<b>GARSTON LA GAFFNEY 24</b> (G) (ex G) M Braddock 6-11-3	J Garstons			
6	<b>GP JUST HILLGAR 27E</b> (D Hiss) A Moore 5-11-3	G Moore			
7	<b>K LOOPHOOT-THE GRASS 82</b> (P) U Pearson J Upson 5-11-3	R Supplee			
8	<b>LIGHT VEMBER 87F</b> (L Jones) T Casey 6-1-3				
9	<b>MR TAYLOR 22</b> (G) (ex G) J O'Sullivan 6-11-3	V Smith			
10	<b>NP PARTY TIME AGAIN 31</b> (Mrs M Harlog) J Webber 7-11-3				
11	<b>PEACEMAN (Stav P Gblings) J Gifford 5-11-3</b>	E Murphy			
12	<b>SP SPRATS BRAT 23</b> (S) (ex H Holman) C Jones 7-11-3	Martin Jones (2)			
13	<b>G STATE BANK 13</b> (B/B And Roughton Ltd) A Moore 5-11-3	Candy Moore			
14	<b>SUPPER TUESDAY 10</b> (S) (ex G) S Staley 6-11-3	G Staley			
15	<b>PF BLANKEN 11</b> (Mrs S G) Mrs S G 5-10-12	A Webb			
16	<b>GREEN GODDESS (Vincennes Boy) S Sherwood 5-10-12</b>	M Kinn			
17	<b>00416-5 SPRINGLAKE 66</b> (J) (Mrs S Saman) Q Cherrywood 6-10-12	J Osborne			
18	<b>S BLUE VERANAT 21</b> (P Ashmore) M Pace 4-10-2	P Brown			
<b>BETTING:</b> 1-12 Green Goddess, 14-1 Bidders Clown, 20-1 others.					
<b>1800: GREENSBY 8-10 m Brennan (10-1) O Brennan 10 ran</b>					

on two starts in Catterick bumpers (2m, good), won't score again for another lengthy Stirling Square race.

CONEYBOY BOY soon beaten (10-4) 2nd to Hidden Oaks at Wolverhampton (2m, good, to soft).

PALMUDU one paced 2nd and 2nd to impale at Bangor (2m, good, very heavy). VERA LINDA 2nd to 1st per on the flat. GARSTON LA GAFFE 1st 8th of 7 to Cranston Yeoman at Towcester (2m, good).

Person and is the first colt of a half-sister to 3-year-old horses, the pair having been trained by Royal Tern. SPRINGALEAK has shown promise in Irish bumpers, most recently at Newen (2m, heavy) finishing 2nd 6th of 24 to Judy's View. BLUE VERVAIN was placed in the same race, representing 2 out in winning tones (2m 1b, good) won by South Harvest.

Selectors: CONEBOY BOY

## Course specialists

TRAINERS			
	Winners	Runners	Per cent
O Sherwood	14	94	29.7
N Greenan	8	37	21.6
N Henderson	29	93	25.5
S Cheater	16	67	22.4
C Brooks	10	40	25.0
D Pigg	3	15	20.0

JOCKEYS			
	Winners	Rides	Per cent
J Smith	18	115	28.7
B Jones	16	108	26.9
M Perrett	7	32	21.9
K Mooney	18	93	21.7
M Brennan	14	73	19.2
P Scudmore	16	82	19.5

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### 2.0 HARPERING MAIDEN HURDLE (£1,748; 3m) (13 runners)

1	05/00-P-F	POSSWAY CUTTE 30 (Mrs R Barry) R Bar 5-11-7	J Cornhill (7)	---
2	5-0-0-P	CADPATT MERCHANT 33 (Lady Penrhyn) G Costamore 5-11-7	L O'Brien (5)	---
3	3-6	GNARLY GRASS 18n (Lightbody of Hamilton Ltd) S & Wilson 5-11-7	P Mowbray	---
4	7	JOHN'S DEFEAT 705 (N.A.S.) R Barry 5-11-7	K Jones	---
5	4	PAULIE MOODOR 10 (B.J.B. Barry) J.R. Barry 5-11-7	H.D. Joyce	---

8	HP-4630	PALANQUIN 49 (R) Fares W Green D-1-7		B Storey	
9	14	PONTAVALQUE 33 (S) Rn Grewat C Partner 7-1-7		R Storey	91
8	SP0033	NABE LAD 10 (P) Hargrave W Miller 7-1-7	A Howard	D	
9	10	THE BIG ROCK (McGarvey) O McGinnis 7-1-7	G McCreer		
3	3-323FP	BLUEHELI TRACK 122 (Mrs P O'Rourke) V Thompson 5-11-2	R Danahy		
9	1	HOOITS MON 27 (Mrs J Thompson) Mrs O Thompson 8-11-2	Mr O Massingham	T	
12	6850J5	JOE JULIE 33 (John J Lowe) E Love 6-1-7	C Love		
12	5254	STEPHAN (P) Halliday A-Hartley 4-10-7	C Garrow		90
<b>SETTING:</b> 115 Porterville, 5-2 Granary Grain, 4-1 Stepping Lightly, 4-1 Patenquin, 25-1 others.					
1995: STATE LAD 6-11-7 A Ormsby (6-1) R Armistead 6 ran					
<b>2.30 J &amp; F ANDERSON W S NOVICES CHASE (22.44s: 2m) (7 runners)</b>					
1	PP-1412	MASTER GALLESMA 80 (COLDF-F) (J Walcott) F Walker 5-11-10	B Storey		
2	QW35-P	APRAL FOREVER 28 (G Adams) R Allen 7-11-4			
3	P	BRANDNER RAMBLER 34 (S Hartley) C Partner 5-11-4	L O'Hara	(B)	
4	1414H/F	FROZEN MINERAL 51 (S) G Camp J Sargent 7-1-7	G McCreer		
5	3-323FP	SIXLION 10 (P) Hargrave W Miller 7-1-7	A Howard	D	
6	1414K2	CORNET 5 (C) Duhan of Sutherland) Darryl Smith 5-10-8	C Grant		
7	6-0005	DONSDALE LAD 38 (Armstrong/Greenwell) M Barnes 5-10-8	F McIntosh	(T)	79
<b>SETTING:</b> 5-4 Procon Mineral, 5-2 Master Salsbury, 11-4 Comet, 8-1 Arpal Forever, 12-2 others.					
1996: DIRECT INHERENT 7-10-10 P Hahn (9-1) Darryle Smith 4 run					
<b>3.0 J R MCNAIR HANDICAP CHASE (Amateurs: 22.75s: 3m) (4 runners)</b>					
1	1-32121	ROVER HOUSE 6 (CDF-P) (P Csechrough) W A Stephenson 5-12-0 (2nd)	K Johnson		90
2	25237F	BIBBER STACH 30 (CDF-P) (P Csechrough) J J Christ 7-1-11	B O'Brien	(T)	
3	1-32121	STOCKY 10 (CDF-P) (P Csechrough) W A Stephenson 5-12-0 (3rd)	J Sargent		

54	632214-LIONY TRAVELLER 432 (F) (Miss E Courtin R Barr 11-10-11)	...	70
55	BETTING: 5-4 River House, 11-5 Bobsiee, 9-2 Doronelson, 7-1 Light Traveller.		
56	1990: TROPOPOINT CHARLIE 10-11-1 C Grand (7-4 rev) W Amsthorn 7 ran		
57	3.30 WALLYFORD NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (2,284; 2m 24h) (8 runners)		
58	1-51221 WESLEYDALE DEVLINIAN 27 (C30,0) Partnership C Thornton 5-11-11	...	84
59	2-1 CUMBERLAND CASHMAN 29 (C40) (Robertson Bros) L Lungo 4-10-11	...	F Penarth 73
60	3-22211 TRICKY ANGELS 5 (F) (Foster) J Boscawen 4-10-11	...	R Bingley 76
61	4-32404 LUPY MINSTREL 18 (G) Gmter C Prince 5-10-13	...	B Storey 36
62	5-3P-0P-0P LUPY MINSTREL 18 (G) Gmter C Prince 5-10-13	...	J O'Donnell 77
63	6-52550 PRINCE BISHOP (H) Millard N Miller 5-10-13	...	A Heywood 77
64	8-500P-0P SWIFTWIND 32 (J) Jones 5 Kestrel 5-10-13	...	J Cullen 78
65	9-00P-0P 000 FRO 16 (F) Vag W Prince 5-10-13	...	K Dossell 79
66	Long handicaps: Crack-A-John 9-4, Prince Bishop 9-7, Sweeney 8-6, No Fills 8-2.		
67	BETTING: 7-4 Wensleydale Devilian, 4-1 Cumberland Colleen, Tricky Angels, 8-1 Lupy Minstrel, 10-1 Crack-A-John, 20-1 Prince Bishop, 60-1 No Fills, Sweeney.		
68	Title: CORNET 4-11-1 P Niven (5-4 rev) Dings Smith 7 ran		
69	© Michael Caulfield, secretary of the Jockeys' Association, believes the overnight declaration of jockeys has moved a step closer, following a meeting at Nottingham yesterday. "The jockeys who attended the meeting had no	outright objections to the principle," said Caulfield. "I'm confident the scheme will come into operation."	
70		The association will now present a paper to the Horserace Advisory Council.	

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In its evidence, the Jockey Club goes for the bookmakers' view that the industry is not so regular when it comes to assessing whether the contribution made by the industry is adequate. The relevant test of adequacy is whether the contribution represents a fair price for the services which racing provides to the betting industry.

It will be judged by reference to the composition of the costs of the racing industry, which it represents, and particularly by reference to the turnover of the industry whose existence it allows. By either criterion, the present payment of a 10 per cent royalty is less than a fair price for the services rendered.

The Jockey Club also argues for the abolition of the levy free slice, aimed at helping smaller bookmakers, which enables them to bring shop to pay no levy on the first £200,000 of turnover.

Punters are still charged the levy reduction and bookmakers pocket the £28.5 million. "If you are public policy grounds, it is not a good idea to have a levy reduction in favour of small betting shops," says the Jockey Club. "It is a change to the structure of betting duty, not by concession on the part of the Jockey Club, but in levy payments made to racing."

Rola argues that bookmakers are in a duty to the raw materials of racing, and that the levy is provided by racing. "It is the interest of racing and society in general that the levy should be

"The introduction of a market mechanism would jeopardise the unique quality of a British racing by allowing the large to prosper at the expense of the small."

The bookmakers argue in favour of greater representation on the Levy Board, at the expense of the Jockey Club, to create a "gap" between the "big" and "taken."

The three government appointed members of the Levy Board highlight the negotiating advantages the bookmakers have under the existing levy system, and suggest changes are needed to overcome the imbalance.

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ES HURDLE

D Macgregor (7)  
6-11-5. S. E. Sme

**NG HURDLE**

6-... S Knightley  
1 Laurence  
S. S Donohoe (7)  
J McLaughlin  
4-10-8 B Powell  
4-10-8  
1 Elsomcar (3)  
SUB. 5-1 Martinik,  
-1 others.

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... 18.7%; J Jenkins,  
... T Pinfield, 3

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## CRICKET

# One statistic that is more than a trivial pursuit for Gower

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, PERTH

THE small print of cricket, its jungle of statistics, has never been more than a trivia to David Gower. Tomorrow, however, he will break the habits of a lifetime and give a statistic his undivided attention as he seeks an unarguable epitaph for a career which has divided us all with its perversity.

It is a characteristic of Gower to achieve his glories and commit his sins when they are least expected. Hence his brilliant centuries in Melbourne and Sydney, where some would not even have picked him, and his idiotic dismissal in Adelaide when the game and the pitch were set up for him.

He will walk a tightrope with artistic assurance, then fall foolishly on his face over a banana skin. He is as infuriatingly impulsive as he is enormously gifted and the game will be immeasurably duller without him.

That time will soon be upon us, for Gower fully intends this to be his last tour. His relish for playing the game, even at top level, is visibly waning, and with Graeme Hick available against West Indies this summer, we are possibly about to witness Gower's 114th and last Test match.

If so, he will have equalled Colin Cowdrey's record number of England appearances. Much more important to him, however, will be to beat Geoffrey Boycott's England run record and so, tomorrow, he is back on that tightrope in search of the 67 runs he wants more than he will admit.

Boycott, ironically, will be in the television commentary box when his painstakingly won, jealously guarded status is threatened by a player whom the frugal Yorkshireman might consider flawed and frivolous.

Gower began the Adelaide Test a week ago needing another 94 to pass Boycott's total of 8,114. He managed only 11 and 16 and his

stunning first-innings surrender to a blatant trap, and from the last ball before lunch, will conspire with his airborne absence without leave in any official case to terminate his England career.

But for all the indignation heaped upon him, it is surely inconceivable that Gower will be denied a last appearance in the country where he commands such devotion. He may have clouded the issue with his misdemeanours but he has top-scored in four of the eight innings in this series and his total of 367 runs is second only to that of his captain, Graham Gooch.

Gower and Gooch have always had different horizons. Gower lives for today and his actions are spontaneous, intuitive; Gooch is conservative, intense and calculating. It would be marginal whether he was more dismayed by Gower's fly-past or his fatal leg-side flick. Both, in Gooch's rulebook, constitute dereliction of duty, for he is a man who believes nothing is worth doing with less than total commitment.

This attitude has been implicit in Gooch's response to apparently impossible targets on the final days of the last two Tests. When most would have acknowledged a lost cause, Gooch had the courage to challenge logic and history. It has had two significant effects. The first is a return of the joyful, tenacious stroke-play of his past, the style he sacrificed to the burden of being indispensable. The second is a ruffling of Australian feathers, a team grown accustomed to undisputed rule suddenly confronted by an upriser.

Gooch's batting has taken the inevitability out of the series. It has been leadership by vivid example, which is the way he does things best. One might occasionally argue with his tactics, but to labour this is to miss the essence of his captaincy.

Its importance to England,

in the brief run-up to this final Test, cannot be overstated. After 12 relentless months on the road, these are tired players and disappointed ones, for the captain has left them in no doubt as to their inadequacies. But they have not, despite early warnings, been swamped by Australia.

If only they could put five days together without one of their patented batting collapses they might even win here in Perth, for Australia are vulnerable, with patchy form behind them and the consuming Caribbean mission ahead of them.

There are imponderables about both teams, the pitch and the weather. First, England, who may prolong the anguish of Jack Russell by again choosing five bowlers. If, however, Fraser's fitness is thought an unacceptable risk, Phil Newport will win his first cap for two years. Fraser yesterday had a cortisone injection in his hip.

Allan Border is determined to play his 117th consecutive Test for Australia and is refusing painkillers of any kind for his strained groin. "I guess I just like to know when I'm hurting," he says.

The Perth pitch, not as quick as it once was, still gives the pace bowlers plenty of help. Last week, however, the captains of Western Australia and Victoria complained about dangerously crumbling cracks during a Sheffield Shield game. If that should happen again, this series might be over sooner than planned.

And the weather? Perth is a furnace. In mid-afternoon yesterday it touched 43°C, about one degree Fahrenheit for each of David Gower's Test caps.

Gower's appeal against the £1,000 fine imposed last week by Peter Lush, the tour manager, after his joy-ride, an aircraft during the match against Queensland, will be heard by a Test and County Cricket Board committee at Lord's after the tour ends.

## Bateman tackles the long and winding road

### Marathon offers the chance to help

By DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT



THE TIMES  
ADT London  
Marathon Appeal

HOW many sportsmen stop to think before saying they can see the light at the end of the tunnel? Steve Bateman does. For him, it is not a convenient cliché expressing optimism after injury; it means more than a pick-up in form or a financial rescue package for a club deep in debt.

Bateman suffers from retinitis pigmentosa. "It is the third largest cause of blindness among the working population in Britain," he said. At the moment there is no cure but progress is being made. Perhaps an answer will be found in the next few years; otherwise he will be facing "real problems" by his mid-40s, he has been told.

If the light is fading literally for Bateman, figuratively, he said, there was some at the end of the tunnel for himself and other sufferers. "Last year they identified one of the genes that caused one type of retinitis pigmentosa. Research these past three years has come on much faster than in previous years."

Meanwhile, he is helping with the tunnel-digging. On April 21, he will run the ADT London Marathon for the British Retinitis Pigmentosa Society as a member of The Times/Unisys London Marathon Appeal.

"The society was founded over ten years ago and raises funds for research," Bateman said. "It also helps with the welfare of its many members. There is little state aid for research and it is important for members to raise as much as possible."

It will be his first marathon. He started running only four months ago, resigned to the fact that his football-playing days were over. He was in his early teens when he first encountered visual difficulties and in his early 20s when the condition was confirmed. Now, aged 34, football, like driving, is off limits. "Any talent I had could not cover up for the deficiency in my eyesight and ball sports are out of the question now," he said.

Bateman, from Ipswich, has lost part of his visual field. Normally, crowds are a problem and the London Marathon, with 25,000 runners, is quite a crowd. "I cannot see the people coming from the side and cutting across," Bateman said. But he has no worries. People running marathons tend to go for the shortest route and keep going straight.

As the days grow longer, so Bateman's training opportunities become easier. He cannot see to train in the dark. "I train at lunchtimes, weekends and early mornings when it is light." It is light that most people take for granted, Bateman said.

"I hope there will be a cure by the end of my lifetime but, if not for myself, I want to help future generations avoid what I am having to suffer," he said.

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Public School Wds..... 22  
British Polys..... 16

IF YOU are a student there is a lot to play for in the coming 12 months: apart from domestic competition and internationals, an English students party will visit Canada in July and the student world cup will be played in Italy next year. Thus the first of the British Polytechnics representative games, at Old Deer Park yesterday, took on a greater significance than usual.

The Polytechnics play British Colleges next month and the UAU in March, and on the evidence of their game with Public School Wanderers, have some useful talents. Sadly it was disrupted by a string of injuries which the most serious was McCune, the Welsh wing, who was taken to hospital with a damaged ankle ligaments in the first half.

They were also opposed by a tolerably strong Wanderers XV which, however, much they abused a constant stream of possession, had to make weight and experience late in the end despite the gallantry of some of the student tackling and a somewhat straggled referee. Nonetheless it was not until the final quarter that they recovered the lead, an injury-time try adding an undeserved gloss to victory by four tries and two penalty goals to two goals and a try.

Bray, the Oxford Blue now back in England after a visit to his native Australia, kicked the Wanderers into an early lead with two penalties. But Polytechnics, vainly hunting for scraps of ball, were delighted to be presented with a try when Evans scooped off for 70 metres and was permitted to recover. The persistence of Atkins and Richard Eastburn, one of twins in the Polytechnics pack, was rewarded when Akun-Olugbemi - a name to conjure with - dodged his way over to give his side a 12-6 interval lead.

Gregory was denied a try for foot in touch before the Wanderers managed to work Reed over and Hen's long run to the corner left the hard-

## Eberharder breaks Girardelli to win the combined gold

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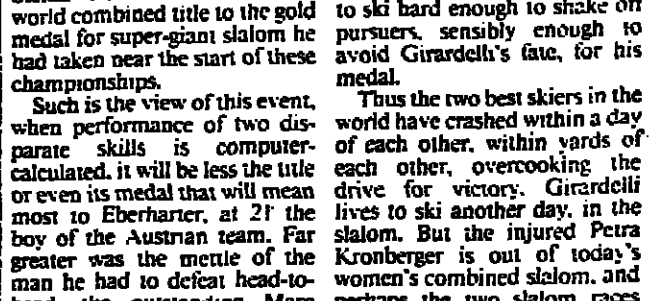
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## TEST MATCH AVERAGES

England batting and fielding									
	M	I	MO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Ct
G A Gooch	4	8	0	374	123	46.75	2	1	1
D J Gower	4	8	0	227	105	28.37	1	1	1
M A Atherton	4	8	0	133	44	16.67	0	0	0
A J Smith	4	8	0	99	53	24.75	1	1	1
A J Lamb	4	8	0	66	33	16.50	0	0	0
W Lamech	4	8	0	141	84	17.62	0	0	0
P A Duffell	4	8	0	87	45	21.75	0	0	0
C R Russell	4	8	0	77	30	19.25	0	0	0
P A Duffell	4	8	0	77	30	19.25	0	0	0
A R Fraser	4	8	0	27	24	6.75	0	0	0
D Macdonald	4	8	0	14	6	3.50	0	0	0
R Tubb	4	8	0	14	6	3.50	0	0	0
PLAYED IN ONE MATCH: C C Lewis 20, 14 (10); E E Hemmings 0 (10)									

Australia batting and fielding									
	M	I	MO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Ct
D C Boon	4	7	1	436	121	72.68	1	2	2
G J Vasey	4	7	1	252	123	36.00	1	1	1
A R Border	4	7	1	254	82	36.28	1	1	1
G R Marsh	4	7	1	250	79	35.71	1	1	1
T A Taylor	4	7	1	182	77	25.71	1	1	1
I A Healy	4	7	1	133	69	22.14	1	1	1
D M Jones	4	7	1	129	60	21.50	1	1	1
S B Wright	4	7	1	82	26	20.50	0	0	0
T M Alderman	4	7	1	27	25	6.75	0	0	0
M G Hughes	4	7	1	44	38	11.00	0	0	0
B A Reid	4	7	1	44	38	11.00	0	0	0
PLAYED IN ONE MATCH: M E Waugh 136, 28 (10); C G Rackemann 1, 0 (10); J C McDermott 42									

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Avg	50	100
S A Reid	180.1	48	432	27	16.00	5	1
T M Alderman	104.5	27	173	22	7.86	4	1
M G Hughes	105.1	28	279	9	31.00	3	0
G R Marsh	167.5	41	405	7	58.00	3	0
A E Hogg	174.0	43	456	1	108.00	0	0
C J McDermott	53.6	13	503	7	71.85	1	0
A R Border	26.6	6	82	1	82.00	1	0
S B Wright	15.0	4	90	1	22.50	0	0
Compiled by Richard Lockwood Source: TC/CA/Bull							

## England's Rhodes hits England A target is too great

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN AUCKLAND

NEW Zealand Under-19 beat their England counterparts by 79 runs in the second one-day international of the Brierley Series at Eden Park yesterday. England bowled and fielded with more control than on the previous day but were hampered by a wet ball and a damp outfield after overnight rain.

After Blackmore and Nash had given New Zealand an enterprising start, rain interrupted plans and the number of overs was reduced to 29. With wickets in hand, New Zealand's batsmen were able to play shots with freedom and rattled up 203 for seven.

England's target was made even stiffer by the loss of two early wickets. Crawley and Smith together, and with the confident form they have shown throughout the tour, they took the innings along at near the required rate.

When Brown broke the partnership by having Crawley caught, England's middle order continued to find ways to get out. Stead picked up three wickets as the batsmen opted for over-ambitious shots.

## Hughes no longer captain of Natal

OVERSEAS REVIEW BY SIMON WILDE

KIM Hughes, the former Australian batsman, has lost his job as captain for the third time in his professional career. He was dismissed last week by Natal, whom he had led since joining them last winter but who are searching vainly for their first trophy in four years.

Hughes resigned the captaincy of Australia in tears in November 1984 and forfeited the leadership of Western Australia a few months later when he joined an unofficial tour of South Africa. Hughes, aged 37, may find his playing days are over when his contract

## Rhodes hits England A into a strong position

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN MATARA, SRI LANKA

ENGLAND A tightened their grip on the three-day match with a Southern District XI here as batsmen again struggled on an unrunworthy pitch yesterday. A hard-hitting 60 by Steve Rhodes helped England to reach 231 for nine in their second innings, 326 runs ahead.

They were given a sound start by Morris and Bicknell and passed 100 with only one wicket down. After tea, however, four batsmen contributed to their own dismissal as 35 were added.

Southern District were with-outout Ekanyake, their left-arm fast bowler, who had a strained leg muscle. The other bowlers benefited from the ball's tendency to keep low, though their poor over-rate once more necessitated an hour's "overtime".

For the second time in the game Morris looked unfortunate to be given out leg-before before to Paliyaguru as he attempted an aggressive stroke. Bicknell looked out of touch but persevered for nearly three hours.

England's slump began when Ramprakash was well caught at mid-wicket. Bicknell snickered a catch to second slip. Fairbrother swung one to mid-on, and Hussain was held down the leg side by the wicketkeeper.

Rhodes, who survived two early chances, hit a six and five fours in a timely reminder before the first one-day international on Saturday that he has

always possessed a good eye. In the morning Pick took two more wickets to finish with five for 41 as Southern District - 34 for five overnight - totalled 98, with Jade de Silva contributing an aggressive 35.

England A XI: First innings 193 (N Hussain 56).  
T M Alderman c Bicknell by Paliyaguru 13  
M Parnell c Bicknell by Paliyaguru 13  
R Paliyaguru c Rhodes by Munn 0  
S K Paliyaguru c Rhodes by Munn 0  
J de Silva not out 36  
M Munnungu run out 8  
T M Alderman c Bicknell by Paliyaguru 5  
P Bicknell c Bicknell by Paliyaguru 5  
P Bicknell c Bicknell by Paliyaguru 5  
P Bicknell c Bicknell by Paliyaguru 5  
P







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● RACING 29  
● FOOTBALL 31

# THE TIMES

## SPORT

### Decision day for Charlton is close

BOBBY Charlton will decide this week whether to offer football an alternative to voting Ken Bates back on to the League management committee. But Charlton, a Manchester United director, stressed that he would not become involved in a personality clash with the Chelsea chairman.

"I don't want any fight with Ken Bates," Charlton, whose main concern is that he will not have enough time to do the job justice, said. "In lots of ways, I get on with him, and I don't want to be used as a pawn."

Bates resigned from the management committee on Tuesday — 18 days after his club were fined a record £105,000 by the League over irregular payments to players. He then announced he would contest the vacancy.

With the Crystal Palace chairman, Ron Noades, who lost to Bates by nine votes to three, with eight abstentions, last summer, unwilling to challenge, it is difficult to see where a rival candidate will come from if Charlton declines.

"I'd love to help," Charlton, who attempted to win a seat on the eight-man management committee 18 months ago, said. "Everybody in football has an ambition to get on the governing body. I had that feeling when I went forward last time and lost."

"I'm on the FA council now and can contribute to the game, and I have to give the management committee vacancy a lot of thought. I've got so many business commitments, it's a real dilemma."

"I don't want to say 'no' but I have to be fair to other people. If I'm going to stand, I have to put my name forward by February 6. I'll speak to the appropriate people at the club and my wife."

"I don't want to do it unless I can do it properly," he said. "You almost need to be retired and, if I feel I haven't got the time, then it's not on." Charlton would attract a good many votes, and one leading administrator said: "If no one else stands, then it would look like vote of confidence in Ken Bates."

Under League regulations, Bates — as a club chairman — can nominate himself for re-election to the management committee. But Charlton's candidacy would have to be sanctioned by Martin Edwards, the Manchester United chairman, and Ken Merrett, the secretary at Old Trafford.

Bracewell's return, page 10

### Liverpool linked to Speedie as Villa deal stalls

By CHRIS MOORE

LIVERPOOL moved last night to sign David Speedie, the Coventry City and Scotland midfielder, from under the noses of Aston Villa. The deal is expected to be confirmed this morning and completed in time for Speedie to be available to make his debut in the televised game against Manchester United at Old Trafford on Sunday.

It is understood that Speedie met officials from Anfield at a secret rendezvous yesterday afternoon, having earlier failed to agree personal terms with Aston Villa.

Liverpool are apparently prepared to pay £700,000 for Speedie, who is aged 30, and meet the player's personal pay demand — believed to be approximately £3,000 a week.

The fiery Scot will certainly add a competitive edge to Liverpool's midfield department in their quest to retain the League championship but the fact that he is not FA Cup eligible might also have been a significant attraction to Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, before the fourth-round replay at Brighton last night.

But Speedie will not help Liverpool's cause when the new regulations come into force for European Cup competitions next season. Clubs

will then be restricted to a maximum of four non-English players in their team.

Liverpool are still banned from competing in Europe as a result of the Heysel stadium disaster but the indications are they could be readmitted next season.

Speedie joined Coventry from Chelsea for a then club-record fee of £750,000 in July 1987 and was their leading scorer with nine goals last season.

The Scottish FA today set about resolving the status of the Rangers midfielder player, Nigel Spackman, who was a colleague of Speedie's at Chelsea. The SFA chief executive, Jim Farry, is seeking an urgent meeting of the four British football associations to establish whether Spackman, who was born in England, can play for Scotland.

Spackman, who has a Scottish grandfather, was included in the Scottish squad to play the Soviet Union, then withdrawn following a dispute over his eligibility.

Farry said: "The position is that late yesterday afternoon we received an indication of FA disquiet about Nigel's inclusion in our squad. There was contact between the two associations to the extent that last night it was decided to

withdraw the player from the squad pending clarification of the position."

Spackman said he hoped the dispute would be "sorted out sooner rather than later".

"I understand that the British countries have an agreement covering this situation, but I believe each case should be judged on its merits. I accept that it might be different for a young player, but it seems clear to me that I am not in England's plans so there shouldn't really be any objection."

English FA officials this morning stressed that they had not objected to Spackman's inclusion in the Scotland squad.

"There has been no communication between the Football Association and the Scottish FA. We have certainly not said he must not play," Glen Kirtton, the head of external affairs for the FA, said.

"We are not going to object in the case of Spackman. What we had intended doing, and will still do, is write to the SFA pointing out that on the face of it his inclusion would be in contravention of our agreement with the Home Associations."

### Dolan accepts an unlikely mission

By MARTIN SEARBY

TERRY Dolan became Hull City's fifth manager in four seasons yesterday and was immediately charged with taking the club, currently bottom of the second division, into the first. To further complicate an already formidable task, there will be no money available for new players until Dolan has severely pruned the current staff of 29.

Richard Chetnam, the chairman, said: "I am well aware of what Terry achieved at Bradford City when he took them from virtually the bottom to within a point of the first division in 16 months, and we want him to do the same for us. I said when I took over as chairman that I wanted Hull to be in the top flight, and that ambition has not been diminished despite recent setbacks."

The first thing Dolan must do is cauterise Hull's flow of

goals. Hull have conceded 67 in 27 League matches — the worst in the League — as well as five in their FA Cup third-round defeat by Notts County. Dolan, aged 40, can take some heart from the fact his new team has also scored 41 goals, three more than West Ham, who lead the division. He made it clear that Payton and Swan, who have accounted for 30 goals, would not be for sale.

"A club this size cannot sustain such a large playing staff and a number will have to go," Dolan said. "But it would clearly be foolish to sell two major assets to buy defenders because good strikers are at a premium throughout the game. I am confident I can pull things round but it is going to take a devil of a lot of hard work and those who have no stomach for it have no place here."

Dolan replaces Stan Ternent, his former assistant at Bradford, who complained he had not been backed by the board of directors. "I think that is unfair," Chetnam said. "He spent £740,000 in 14 months here but simply did not get the results we required." Ternent was dismissed four weeks ago.

The chairman confirmed that Hull were originally refused admission to approach Dolan by Rochdale, but after his resignation last Monday they felt free to negotiate a three-and-a-half year contract. "I was away on holiday and when I returned Terry was a free agent," Chetnam said. "We had a lot of applications but in view of his record he was the man we wanted."

Dolan took Rochdale to the fifth round of the FA Cup for the first time last season and left them ninth in the fourth division, compared to 22nd when he took over 14 months earlier. At Bradford he reached the second-division play-offs and had Cup successes over Everton and Tottenham, but was dismissed following an FA Cup defeat by Hull City.

### Uncertain club role for Tapie

PARIS — Bernard Tapie, the suspended Marseilles president, and the club's striking football players delayed a scheduled meeting by 24 hours yesterday as uncertainty grew over whether he planned to resign.

Tapie was banned for a year by a disciplinary committee on Monday for damaging sporting morale and insulting referees and has said he would urge his players to end their indefinite strike, called in protest at the sanction on their president.

A meeting was scheduled yesterday but Tapie, who remained in Paris, where he met Jean-Paul Huchon, cabinet director of Michel Rocard, the French prime minister is expected to talk to his players in Marseilles tomorrow. 24 hours before they are to play a first division fixture in Bordeaux.

Tapie has invested large amounts of money to transform Marseilles into a team capable of winning the European titles and after his ban on Monday said that he would not appeal and would leave the club. Since then his comments have been guarded and speculation has grown that he may appeal and that he could continue in office.

Michel Hidalgo, the general manager of Marseilles, said that Tapie's first remarks on resigning were made without reflection after learning of his surprise ban. "He's a winner and he's going to fight. I'm certain he will not resign," Hidalgo said. Tapie had opened "a box of dreams" at Marseilles. "He can't go just like that," he added.

Jean Fournet-Fayard, president of the French Football Federation (FFF), said the one-year ban on Tapie, the last four months of which are suspended, did not mean he could not remain as president of Marseilles but added that Tapie would be unable to represent the club in dealings with the FFF or the French League.



Springing into action: England's latest replacement on the Ashes tour of Australia, Phil Newport, bowling in the nets at Perth yesterday. Test preview, page 30

### Yorkshire hit hard by record financial loss

By MARTIN SEARBY

YORKSHIRE county cricket club made a record loss last year when an £81,000 surplus was turned into a £28,000 deficit, a figure that would have been a great deal worse had Leeds Cricket and Rugby League Football Club, their landlords and the owners of Headingley, not given them a rebate of £40,000 overpaid in previous years.

In figures released today, the membership has dropped from £9,400 to £8,300 and subscription money is down on the previous year, despite an increase in prices. In his report, Peter Townsend, the treasurer, points out that expenses increased at four times the rate of income with the players' wage bill going up by £44,000.

The first team cost £163,000 to put in the field, an increase

of £35,000, and the total cricket expenses soared from £603,000 in 1989 to £742,415. Attendances were down for all competitions and the money received from the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) increased by less than £7,000 to a total of £332,687, a figure boosted by the income from satellite television coverage of the Sunday League and the Benson and Hedges Cup.

The smallest county, Derbyshire, with 1,500 members, made a £30,000 profit and the future looks gloomy for Yorkshire, which does not have a ground of its own. "We are in a deep recession and I cannot see it improving in the short term," Townsend said.

The figures are far worse than any previously recorded, the biggest deficit coming in 1982, when the county lost

£11,350, mainly as the result of a substantial drop in the revenue from the TCCB. Many members feel the financial situation will not be resolved until the club has premises of its own and there is a motion that the county should build on a new site tabled for the annual meeting in Leeds on February 23.

David Bairstow, the county's former wicketkeeper who was not retained at the end of the summer, received £74,000 from his testimonial year.

Leicestershire county cricket club lost more than £18,000 last season, their biggest deficit for more than 20 years. The previous season the loss was just over £3,000. Describing the loss as "extremely disappointing", the chief executive, Mike Turner, blamed it on an increase of £120,000 in the running costs of the club. Because of an increase in salaries, the size of the staff and the appointment of Bobby Simpson as the team manager, the cost of the professional staff went up by £75,000.

Turner also said: "One of the most worrying aspects of the accounts is the further decline in membership. The income from this source now provides less than ten per cent of the income needed to run the club."

### Moody free for start

WORCESTERSHIRE will have their new signing, Tom Moody, available from the start of next season following his exclusion from the Australian party to tour the West Indies.

The former Warwickshire batsman will link up with his country for the pre-season tour of Zimbabwe in March. Northamptonshire have signed Paul Taylor, the former Derbyshire seam bowler, on a two-year contract. He has spent the past two seasons with Staffordshire.

Warwickshire, who finished fifth in the Britannic Assurance county championship last season, have announced an after-tax profit of £69,547 for the year ended September 30, 1990.

### A points change to suit Mansell

By NORMAN HOWELL

FISA, motor racing's governing body, is changing the points-scoring system for the Formula One season starting at Phoenix on March 10. Drivers will drop only two results out of the 16 points-scoring races where previously the best 11 results counted towards the world championship.

Fisa, at its meeting in Paris yesterday, said that pole position at Suzuka in Japan would be changed from the right side of the grid to the left. This follows the extraordinary start and subsequent accident involving Alain Prost and Ayrton Senna as they contended for the title last season.

Senna had complained before the race that the right-hand position did not favour the driver who had won pole. Events seemed to confirm this as Prost's Ferrari easily outpaced the McLaren-Honda over the first few yards.

Fisa's new points system is intended to put a higher value on a win, which should encourage the more positive, go-getting drivers such as Senna and Nigel Mansell. Previously, the winner collected nine points, the runner-up six and others four, three, two and one. Now the winner will get ten. The others remain the same.

The fact that only two bad driver's bad results will be dropped in a season, so that he can score over 14 races, may paradoxically encourage more percentage driving. A reliable car, capable of regularly scoring points, especially in second and third position, may have a better chance of winning the championship than one that is superfast but fails to conclude some of the races.

Fisa has decided that from 1992 Formula One fuel must conform to EC regulations, which means unleaded. The debate over lead is seen by some to be a smokescreen. The problem seems to be to get one particular fuel manufacturer to agree to a set of standards for the races and for qualifying.

### MP chairs Olympics truce talks

By JOHN GOODBODY

ON THE eve of the deadline for British bids to stage the 2000 Olympic Games, Kate Hoey, the Labour MP for Vauxhall, yesterday stepped in to mediate between the rival London groups.

She will chair a meeting at the House of Commons on Monday in an attempt to settle the differences between London Olympic 2000, led by Sebastian Coe, and the London Council for Sport and Recreation, on which there are representatives from the boroughs and also sports bodies in the capital. Both parties have agreed to the meeting.

However, the British Olympic Association (BOA) will now have to decide whether to extend its deadline. Technically, it could disqualify London since it has repeatedly said it will consider only one bid from a city and not two bids.

The association may be prepared to wait a few days but would consider it unfair to Manchester, which is also bidding for the Games, if the deadline were extended further.

This morning, Dick Palmer, the secretary of the BOA, is expected to open three letters confirming the bids for the Games — two from London and one from Manchester.

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### Petra-fever as Austria salutes its wonder woman

From BRIAN JAMES  
IN SALLBACH

SEEN in silhouette as she flies, helmeted and half-crouched, towards the finish of any ski race, Petra Kronberger has an outline exactly that of a pound sign. Supreme symbolism, for since her entry into the world championships here in Austria with a gold medal in the fearsome downhill last Saturday, she had been expected every day to ratchet up, notch after notch, her own spiral of fame and riches.

The setback of her finish-line crash in the super-giant event on Tuesday was severe. Now she will not run in the second half of the combination today, and a certain second gold will be thus denied her; there are even doubts about her knee mending enough for her to race in the two slaloms which were

### COMMENT

to have filled her bag with more gold.

Trauma, yes, tragedy no. For one thing, she is young enough, at 23, to contest many more world championships. And if rest now enables her to return to the World Cup circuit in two weeks to take up where she left off — with a huge lead over every rival — the words of her countryman, Franz Klammer ("She will be the best ever — yes, even than Moser-Pröll") will sound less like hype, more like forecast.

Another factor is the woman herself. It is easy to be swept into error by the Petra-fever, a rash that colours front pages, shop-fronts and T-shirts.

"There is no Austrian film star or footballer so famous," said one of the entourage, pressing close in the mad moments of downhill victory. "Austria again has a wonder woman." The last to earn that sort of title was Moser-Pröll, the champion of the Seventies. Her grateful village clubbed together and brought her land on which to build herself a hotel.

Kronberger's rewards in these sophisticated times will be rather less DIY. Sponsors will pay her around \$75,000 via the official pool for her medal. Insiders guess that the unofficial pay-off will be ten times that. Add the fees for opening supermarkets, endorsing soaps... Her wish, she said, was now to get away and go for a hike. Alone and unseen, she implied. She knows the impossibility of that. After winning

last year's World Cup, the St Anton bank, where she has a summer job, moved her into a back room from her post on a counter: queues of the curious and the questioning had brought the bank's business to standstill. Marriage, retirement and emigration are her only way now to anonymity.

Can Petra Kronberger handle such pressure? Skiing, these flying young women are the fleeting stuff of fantasy. Stripped of their racing suits (figuratively speaking, of course), they dissolve into simple Alpine *mädchen*: sisters of those, all pinafores, blouses and pigtails, that bring coffee and strudel. The press conferences of most are excruciating. "My skis ran well... I made no mistake... I feel happy to

win... and I owe much to my trainer" on the banality-meter score only a point or two below the "I want to travel and help people" of every beauty queen.

Yet Kronberger could be different. A friend came upon her, deeply distressed at the outbreak of the Gulf war, the political consequences of which she explained in detail. Did ski races not seem unimportant, he asked. Her response was a line from Goethe: "If the world shall end tomorrow, then still I shall plant a tree today."

A lady who believes that the greatest man this century was not Austria's great skier, Klammer, but Gorbachev, and happily will take an hour to explain why, has many facets.